



Glorious Twelfth (unless you happen to be a grouse)

Alexandra Williams

Speed and taste rather than looks are the downfall of the grouse and the reason that 400,000 are shot each year. The tubby birds have small heads, short necks and feathered toes and have been likened to under-cooked Christmas puddings. But they are perfect competition for shotgun-toting sportsmen and women, for they soar through the air at 60mph and once on the plate are a superb accompaniment to a fine bottle of Claret.

Grouse-shooting begins today, on "the Glorious Twelfth" of August, the most high-profile date in the British shooting calendar. The season lasts until 10 December.

The origin of the name grouse is an old French word, *griechu*, which means "grey" or "speckled". It became modified to *grouse* by Henry VIII in 1531.

The first recorded instance of grouse driving was not until 1805 at Cannon Hall, Barnsley. Thirty years later, drives had become a regular feature of shooting, and by 1843 a bag of 50 brace a day was not uncommon.

The term "Glorious Twelfth" was coined in the 1880s, after the Government made a law banning grouse shooting until that date. Young birds born in May were not considered good sport before then.

The last good season for grouse was 1975. In 1977, stocks crashed and it was not until 1981 that there was a small recovery. The average annual bag in Scotland is 200,000, and 400,000 for Britain as a whole, although the number of grouse shot on managed moors has fallen by an average of 40 per cent over the past 40 years.

The best years for red grouse were 1912, 1934, 1963, 1965 and 1974 and the worst was 1917, after the parasitic gutworm *Trichostrongylus tenuis*, poor weather and other diseases took their toll.

There are 459 grouse moors in Britain, covering 4.1 million acres. Last year, many landowners did not allow shooting in order to conserve stocks and continue to allow them to regenerate.

Although blood sports enthusiasts have been flinching recently at a wave of popular and political disapproval of their hobby, the atmosphere among grouse shooters is one of cheery optimism this year.

Janet George, spokeswoman for the British Field Sports Society, said: "It looks as if it's going to be the best season for five years."

But the shooters' relief is tinged with concern for the future: "The Government has no understanding of field sports and are threatening to review shotgun certificates. Soon it could be only the police and criminals who have guns."

Dick Playfair, spokesman for the Scottish Landowners' Federation, said: "We are optimistic for a good season this year. It's still an expensive sport but it's not the elitist sport it once was. The image of tweeds and privilege is dated."

But at £500 a day, some may beg to differ. At the bottom end of the scale, an informal day out costs £45 a brace and typically one is likely to net 10 to 15 brace a day. A driven shoot, however, demands more than £100 a brace and between 60 to 100 brace can be expected. Some prefer to pay a flat fee of £6,000 a day.

Game shooting is worth £80m a year to Scotland, £30m more than the Edinburgh Festival. Many of those who grouse shoot are foreigners and as little as 10 per cent are Scottish.

Although it is predominantly a male sport, women can be spotted on the moors shooting and helping with the loading. As one woman put it: "If you do badly men despise you. If you shoot well they hate you."



Roll out the double-barrel: Gamekeeper Calum Kippen cleans his equipment in readiness for the big day

Photograph: John Paul

Tory grammar tests put on ice

Judith Judd
Education Editor

Ministers yesterday put off the introduction of compulsory grammar tests for 14-year-olds while government curriculum advisers carry out a fundamental review of English testing.

The decision is a victory for English teachers who campaigned fiercely against the tests, introduced by the previous government, and threatened a boycott if they remained unchanged.

The first pilots were held last term and Conservative ministers intended all 14-year-olds to take separate grammar tests from next year.

Gillian Shephard, the former secretary of state for education, had insisted the grammar tests were vital because of complaints from employers and the public about sloppy language.

Tory education ministers waged a long-running battle with teachers who opposed English tests for 14-year-olds when they were introduced four years ago.

A review of the national curriculum and testing to begin next year will look at English

teachers' objections to how both Shakespeare and reading and writing are tested at the age of 14.

Teachers say that Shakespeare should be tested through coursework marked by teachers, not by an end-of-course exam, and that grammar should be tested through pupils' writing, not by separate tests.

Baroness Blackstone, the education minister, announced that the Conservative plans for mental arithmetic tests at ages 11 and 14 would go ahead but there would be further English pilot tests for 14-year-olds including grammar, spelling and punctuation.

She said: "These tough new tests will be a challenge for teachers and pupils which we are confident they can meet. The changes will help us to continue our drive to raise school standards."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education said that the pilot tests had thrown up some problems so ministers had decided to extend the pilot.

The decision was taken on the advice of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority.



Baroness Blackstone: Tough new tests will be a challenge

In a letter to the department, the authority said: "The response from schools involved in the pilot and other evidence indicates a general preference for the assessment of these aspects of English to be part of a broader assessment of reading and writing rather than through separate tests."

Authority officials were also concerned that a compulsory grammar test might be unfair when a survey showed that many English teachers were

not confident about teaching sentence structure in grammar.

Bethan Marshall, of the National Association for the Teaching of English, welcomed the Government's decision. "The tests have been a complete fiasco in two of the last three years," she said. "They are not a true test of pupils' ability and disadvantage bright pupils."

Ministers also announced a review of national education and training targets after they received a warning that two of the present targets are too ambitious.

Under the targets, adopted by the previous government, three-quarters of 19-year-olds and 35 per cent of 21-year-olds were to reach the required level in literacy, numeracy and information technology by 2000.

The body which sets national targets says in its annual report that Britain will need longer than expected to ensure that these two targets are achieved.

Current figures for the two age groups are 9.7 and 0.4 per cent. The report says IT skills present a particular problem.

The National Advisory Council for Education and

Training Targets also says that the target for 60 per cent of the workforce to have two A-levels or the vocational equivalent will have to be postponed.

The advisory council believes that other targets - 85 per cent of 19-year-olds to achieve five good GCSEs or the vocational equivalent, and 60 per cent of 21-year-olds to have two A-levels or the vocational equivalent by 2000 - are achievable.

However, the report says that the figures are "challenging" and "the right action must be taken urgently to raise attainment levels further."

Baroness Blackstone said: "We have already set targets for improvements in literacy and numeracy for 11-year-olds - we now need to identify targets for the other main areas of education and skills attainment where we all feel we need to do better."

Philip Chorley, the advisory council's director, said that good progress had been made towards the targets. "We are saying that the majority of the targets can be reached."

"We knew when we set them in spring 1995 that they were going to be challenging."

The best of hospitality for tourist who became a hostage to good fortune

Andrew Marshall

Being kidnapped is a traumatic, unpleasant and disturbing experience - except in Yemen, it would seem.

An Italian tourist who emerged from captivity yesterday could not have been more delighted. Giorgio Bonanomi, 49, was released on Sunday night after five days as a hostage. While in captivity he was fed with the tastiest morsels of local food, kept clean and allowed to write letters to his girlfriend.

He said: "They treated me very well, always leaving me the best things to eat." "I am perfectly fine. I was never afraid for a moment, and

it was a very interesting experience," Mr Bonanomi told the Italian news agency Ansa. "We have another seven days here and I certainly don't want to miss them."

"Yemen is a beautiful country and all in all I was a guest, even if an enforced one, of very interesting people."

Yemen, a mountainous and green corner of the Arabian peninsula which the Romans named Arabia Felix, is one of the wildest places on earth. It is partly inhabited by heavily armed tribesmen for whom a Kalashnikov hardly counts as a serious weapon; rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns are ubiquitous, and

some tribes run to tanks and heavy artillery. Tribal groups have regularly seized hostages, either as pawns in internal battles, or to win concessions from the government and oil companies.

But they are nearly always treated with scrupulous hospitality. One diplomat returned from captivity some years ago with his sole complaint that he had been pined with too much Johnny Walker Black Label.

Americans, French, Saudis, Italian and Germans have been seized over the past few years, but all hostages have so far been released unharmed.

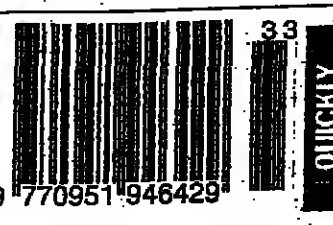
Mr Bonanomi, a 49-year-old

graphic artist, was freed after a standoff between the government and members of the Dhabian tribe in the remote and romantic east of the country, not far from the site of what was once the palace of the Queen of Sheba.

He was travelling with six other tourists when the armed kidnappers stopped their four-wheel vehicle at a desert road block.

He apparently regarded his sojourn in the desert as a highly-desirable optional trip, and said he would continue with his holiday.

"Too bad it's not possible to organise holidays like this, because it was fantastic," he said.



Paedophile register
The police are to get new powers to warn local communities about sex offenders in their area. But their scope will be limited for fear of vigilante action. Page 8

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news

significant shorts

Two killed as helicopter crashes near motorway

Two men died after a helicopter crashed beside the M6 in north Lancashire yesterday. Police said the small helicopter had landed upside down and the rotor blade of the helicopter was believed to have come detached and landed on the M6 southbound carriageway at junction 35, near Carnforth. Around 20 firefighters were at the scene trying to bring burning wreckage under control. Eyewitnesses spoke of one body lying in the field while another was trapped in the cockpit. Police were still trying to determine the helicopter's flight plan but it was believed to have come from the South Yorkshire area.

Caring parents to challenge council

The parents of a severely disabled teenager have the power to challenge the number of relief breaks they are allocated by their local authority, the High Court ruled yesterday. Stuart Jagger and his wife Susan, who are both in their 50s and seriously ill themselves, look after their 16-year-old son Michael, a cerebral palsy sufferer who is wheelchair-bound and needs constant attention and supervision. The family is allocated a certain amount of respite care, whereby Michael is looked after away from the home, but Calderdale Metropolitan Council in West Yorkshire has now decided to cut the provision by about 30 per cent. Mr and Mrs Jagger claim the council's action is unlawful. The judge granted leave to challenge the authority's decision and ordered that a full hearing should be held as soon as possible. **Glenda Cooper**

Policeman held in hunt for drugs cash

A serving police officer has been arrested in connection with multi-million profits believed to have been accrued by a convicted drugs trafficker, police disclosed yesterday. The officer, from the Greater Manchester force, was suspended from duty after his arrest following raids on Merseyside on 31 July. He was one of six people rounded up by officers trying to trace the estimated £180m fortune of international drugs baron Curtis Warren, who is currently serving 12 years in a Dutch jail for conspiracy to supply drugs. The officer and five others taken into custody were released on police bail until November pending further inquiries.

Blur singer in radio tribute to Orton



Damon Albarn of the Britpop band Blur is among the cast of the first production of a Joe Orton script originally written for The Beatles. It is being broadcast on Radio 3 to mark the 30th anniversary of the playwright's death. The Beatles' managers commissioned the script for *Up Against It* and then rejected it because the plot associated them with murder and adultery. In a macabre twist, Orton had an appointment on 9 August 1967 to see film-maker Richard Lester about salvaging the screenplay – but the chauffeur sent to pick him up found him and his lover Kenneth Halliwell dead. The play will be broadcast on 21 September.

Mother killed in horror smash

Two women died and a baby was critically hurt yesterday when a car swerved off the road and rammed a family walking with a pushchair. The 86-year-old woman driver probably had a heart attack and died before crashing into mother Jill Wilson, 34, who was with her two young children in Fleet, Hampshire, police said. Four-month-old Anthony Wilson was thrown out of his buggy but the car missed his sister Victoria, aged two. The vehicle ploughed on for 500 yards, carrying Mrs Wilson on its bonnet, before coming to a halt when it hit another vehicle, whose driver was unhurt by the impact. The car driver was named as Winifred Fletcher, of Fleet.

Police to face death-crash charges

Two police officers are to face disciplinary charges after an innocent motorist and a policeman were killed during a 100mph pursuit of a stolen car. The Independent Police Complaints Authority yesterday disclosed that two West Midlands Police officers, one who was in the force information room and the other in the divisional information room during the pursuit, will face charges of neglect of duty after the incident in December 1995. Neil Homer, 20, of Oldbury, died after his car was hit by a police car that had sped through red traffic lights. Panda car passenger PC Robert Dallow, 41, was also killed. The driver, PC Leslie Collins, 45, was jailed for three months for causing death by dangerous driving; the 16-year-old driver of the stolen car was sentenced to 12 months' custody.

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people



By George: John Kennedy Jr, once dubbed the world's sexiest man

JFK Jr scorns the black sheep of the Kennedy clan

John F. Kennedy Jr has shown once more that no one understands the commercial draw of his name better than himself.

Last year, he launched a glossy political monthly, *George*, and made sure the world knew that he was its editor. Now he has taken to writing in its pages about the Kennedys.

In next month's issue, which will be dedicated to women, New York's most talked-about editor (save, perhaps, for our own Tina Brown) was a "you-should-know-better" finger at two of the Camelot clan for having succumbed to the temptations of the flesh, to the considerable detriment of their marriages.

Sales of the latest issue will doubtless be fueled further by an accompanying *George*-of-Eden portrait of JFK Jr, sitting cross-legged and looking longingly at an apple suspended above him. *Shadows* are artfully cast across the lower contours of his still-beefy torso.

The targets of his newly self-righteous pen are his cousins, the sons of the assassinated Bobby Kennedy. Joe Kennedy, a Democrat representative in Washington,

and his younger brother, Michael Kennedy. The two, JFK suggests, have become America's favourite "poster boys for bad behaviour".

Both Kennedys have indeed been in the headlines recently.

Jr was pilloried by his ex-wife, Sheila, because of his efforts to have their 12-year marriage annulled by the Catholic Church. Michael was accused earlier this year of peeing his family's pabstifer – beginning when she was just 14-years-old.

The pair, JFK Jr opines, stumbled by chasing "an idealised alternative to their lifestyle. One left behind an embittered wife, and another, in what looked to be a hedge against mortality, fell in love with youth".

Of the media brouhaha, he adds: "Perhaps they deserved it. Perhaps they should have known better. To whom much is given, much is expected, right?"

Sales of September's *George* are sure to be healthy, but if there are any beach reunions planned for the extended Kennedy family this summer, JFK Jr may want to consider staying away.

David Usborne, New York

I'm not a good actress, admits Sandra Bullock

Sandra Bullock, star of *Speed 2*, believes she is not a talented actress and that people only think she is special because her movies make millions, she said yesterday.

The modest millionairess has reportedly been paid \$9m to recreate the role of the Los Angeles girl she played opposite Keanu Reeves in the original *Speed*.

But yesterday she admitted having turned down many film roles, because she is not good enough to play them. "I've turned down some scripts that I thought were wonderful but I knew I wasn't capable of executing them. Just because your films make money people think you can act," she said.

"I've been sent scripts that were amazing, but I knew I couldn't do them in a million years. I wasn't talented enough or wasn't emotionally equipped."

"It is really hard to reject something, but I'd rather watch someone else make a great film."

"I'd rather an incredibly talented actress went in and did a great job than me go in a screw up a great



script," she added during a news conference at the Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane, London.

Speed marked her breakthrough in 1994, but Bullock was not first choice for the part.

The film's producers had originally wanted Julia Roberts for the role of Annie Porter, but they regarded the fee she demanded as excessive. Bullock was paid \$300,000 for the role, while Roberts reportedly asked for \$5m.

Speed 2: Cruise Control, which also stars Jason Patric and Willem Dafoe, opens across Britain on Friday.

Hinkes flies home after ordeal

Alan Hinkes, the British mountaineer, arrived home yesterday and vowed to continue his attempt to become the first Briton – and only the sixth person in the world – to climb all 14 of the world's mountains over 8,000 metres.

Hinkes, 43, was stranded on a Himalayan mountain for more than a week with a slipped disc, after the flour on a chapati made him sneeze while he was halfway up the 8,128m (26,660ft) Nanga Parbat in Pakistan. After enduring a week in which he could barely move, he was eventually evacuated by helicopter.

Yesterday he tucked into a more familiar meal, fish and chips, and insisted that he would renew his efforts to climb the last 5 of the 14 once he is fit again.

He has already conquered the two highest, Everest and K2, but admitted his embarrassment at being laid low by a humble chapati.

"I was in bad shape anyway because my body was starting to waste away. At the time I thought I was dying. I was stuck for about a weekend I was beginning to get a bit worried."

Charles Arthur

briefing

WESTMINSTER

Parliamentary reporters at risk of losing their hearing

Listening to noisy MPs can damage your health. Many have long suspected it was so, but research has now highlighted the potential risks of listening to too many politicians' speeches. The official *Hansard* reporters, who spend hours transcribing tape recordings of MPs in debate, are in danger of losing their hearing.

Investigations showed that too many of the reporters, who produce the official record of proceedings in Westminster, were spending too long with their headphones turned up too high.

This raised the risk of hearing problems or tinnitus – regardless of the political persuasion of the speaker, according to the researcher, Dr Mike Lower of the University of Southampton's Institute of Sound and Vibrations.

"It doesn't matter what the content is, whoever they happen to represent or whether they are pleasant or unpleasant," he said.

It is well-established that loud noise can damage hearing, but little research has been done on the effect of noise through earphones. It is thought they might amplify sounds to risky levels. **Louise Jury**

SCIENCE

Chemical linked to aggression

Violent behaviour in young men seems to be linked to an imbalance of body chemistry – the ratio of copper and zinc in the blood plasma, according to American scientists, whose research was published yesterday. Associated work found that returning this ratio to its usual value was linked with improved behaviour.

William Walsh, president of the Health Research Institute in Naperville, Illinois, reports the findings of the small-scale study, which examined 153 males aged between three and 20, in the US journal *Physiology and Behavior*. "Our preliminary findings show that young men who have varying levels of angry, violent behaviour also have elevated copper, and depressed zinc levels," he writes. By contrast, the non-violent control group had normal levels.

Zinc is an essential trace element, which plays a role in disorders such as the skin conditions such as acne and eczema.

"This data suggests that violent behaviour is one of those [zinc-related] disorders," said Dr Walsh. Other studies have also found that behaviour improves when the ratios are returned to "normal" values using zinc and other nutrients, he added. **Charles Arthur**



MEDICINE

Caffeine may aid cancer treatment

Caffeine could offer doctors a powerful new weapon for fighting a major killer cancer, it is reported today. Laboratory experiments show that caffeine improves the effectiveness of radiotherapy on large bowel cancer cells by up to 150 per cent.

The amount of caffeine needed to reproduce the same effect in patients would poison the nervous system. But scientists at Bristol University are trying out other caffeine-like chemicals in the hope that they will be both effective and safe.

The new research, funded by the Cancer Research Campaign, involves adding caffeine to cancer cells immediately after they are exposed to radiation.

Both radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatments work by damaging the DNA of cancer cells so that they self-destruct. Bowel cancer cells are particularly resistant to these treatments because they effectively repair the DNA and do not die. Caffeine appears to prevent the cells repairing the damage caused by radiotherapy. In the tests, it dramatically increased the number of cells made to self-destruct.

BROADCASTING

Creating a new identity is easy

For those looking to emulate Edward Fox in *The Day of The Jackal*, it is still possible to obtain a passport using a dead person's birth certificate and effectively create a false identity, according to a Channel 4 documentary.

But the programme's director, Elizabeth Allen, said it would be deliberately vague about how to go about getting a false passport, to stop the programme being a "how-to" guide.

But she said the idea of creating a new identity seemed popular after she advertised for people to take part in the programme: "It was rather depressing. We had a staggering response. Mainly they were people who want to escape their domestic situation or debts."

Good and Gone is to be screened at 11pm on 18 August, as part of Channel 4's *Renegade* TV season. **Paul McCann**

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مكتبة من الامارات

Under the volcano: How a rock music legend was turned to dust



Phil Davison
Salem, Montserrat

It was renowned by musicians world-wide as the Air Studio, named because its soundproof recording room was built on ball-bearings to "float" during tremors from the nearby volcano. Belonging to the former Beatles record producer, George Martin, it was a Caribbean paradise hideaway that churned out classics from the Rolling Stones, Paul McCartney, the Police, Elton John, Eric Clapton, Dire Straits, Stevie Wonder *et al*.

Sing and the Police recorded *Every Breath You Take* here, and filmed the video in a local Anglican church. McCartney and Stevie Wonder turned out *Emotion* and *Ivory* here. Local soca-caypo star Arrow cut most of his worldwide hit *Hot, Hot, Hot*. In the most prophetic song of all, Jimmy Buffett laid down his famous *Volcano* song: "I don't know where I'm gonna go when the volcano blows."

Now, the recording studio lies abandoned and ash-covered in the shadow of Montserrat's volcano. Inside the "forbidden zone," evacuated and out of bounds, it is threatened with fire or burial under ash, rocks and mud if there is another major eruption. One church used in the Police video has been destroyed. Another is now crammed with refugees who fled the evacuated and devastated capital, Plymouth.

To give something back to the Caribbean island that helped sell their records, the pop ghosts who still haunt the abandoned studio, including Clapton, Sting and McCartney, will perform at a benefit concert for Montserrat on 15 September in the Royal Albert Hall. Local hero Arrow, real name Alphonsus Cassell and undisputed world king of soca, the Afro-Caribbean-Latin beat, will set the

The Soufriere volcano seen from Antigua (above) during an eruption earlier this month and (right) Dire Straits at George Martin's Air Studio. Many of the world's top recording stars used the studio, including The Police, who made their multi-million selling *Synchronicity* (below right) there in 1983

Photographs: Thomas Keeble, Retna

tone at the concert with *Hot, Hot, Hot* and his volcano song, *Ah Just Can't Run Away*. "As long as breadfruit and mango down here, I'll be holdin' on," it says. "As long as I can leave me door wide open, I'll be holdin' on. What is to be will be. I will never leave my country."

More than half the island's 11,000 residents have left their country, to Britain or nearby islands, or else simply moved north, to refugee shelters in tents or churches.

The white stone Air Studio building, originally a storage warehouse for the island's waterworks on an old slave cotton plantation known as Hollander's, is perched above the Belham River valley outside Plymouth. Scientists fear the next avalanche of red hot rock, ash and gas from the Soufriere volcano could come down the valley and swamp Hollander's, the studio and the entire low-lying river valley beneath the township of Salem.

The studio, where Sting played pool between cuts and where Ringo Starr slept rather than return to his villa, had been little used since 1989, when parts of its roof were torn off by Hurricane Hugo. Much of its equipment has been sold off to Japan and the outside swimming pool used by the stars is now full of ash. But, perched alone on a lush hillside above George Martin's man-



sion, Olveston House, it has remained a symbol of Montserrat's musical glory years.

"I found out when I did vocals there, they came out better," said Arrow, who runs a clothing store between recording sessions and has moved his business from Plymouth to the higher ground of Salem. "Maybe it was because I was home, but others told me the same."

Montserratians are not ones to complain, though a few had asked foreign reporters why an array of world pop stars had so far done nothing for the island. But, with no newspapers arriving from abroad, no one in Montserrat had even heard yesterday of the Royal Albert Hall concert, and no one seemed to really care. If anything, the sentiment was that money from the concert was unlikely to get beyond the British or local officials who run the island, one of a dozen so remaining British colonies.

But the stars will doubtless remember the locals who looked after them here. There was Mickie, the studio barman, X, the maintenance man and driver, and "Bappy, the studio chef. And, of course, Andy Lawrence, owner of Andy's Village Place, a nearby restaurant and bar.

"Elton [John] proposed to his wife



at Andy's. She was a sound engineer at the studio," said X, who still works for (now Sir) George Martin. Like everyone here, no one knows Lloyd Francis, 50, as anything other than his nickname, X, not unconnected with his respect for Malcolm X. "Yes, Ronnie worked on the sound for my *Hot, Hot, Hot*. And I hear she got a few million out of the settlement with Elton," added Arrow as we chatted in his shop in Salem. "The studio had the best chef on the island, George 'Tappy' Morgan. George [Martin] hired him from the Vue Pointe [the island's best hotel, now also evacuated] just to keep the stars well fed and happy."

"They all dined here: Sting, Elton,

Dire Straits, Simply Red," said Andy Lawrence. "They loved our chicken. We're the Kentucky of Montserrat. We miss them a lot. They're nice people. If you mention my name, they'll say yes, I know him, I know Andy."

"Mick, who came here with Jerry Hall, once told me what he loved about this place was that he could walk down the street and not be mobbed," said X, wearing a black Keith Richards t-shirt the Stones' guitarist had given to him. "Paul [McCartney] came with a dozen security guys not long after John Lennon was killed but sent them home after the first day. He'd pass through Salem with his wife and people would just say 'Hi' and walk on. When Ringo came to visit Paul, he seemed to have a woman bodyguard," added X without a hint of a smile.

"Paul was popular but Stevie [Wonder] was a blind guy, and black like us. People loved him. He used to play pigs at the Anchorage club, in Wapping, just south of Plymouth. 'The club's probably gone now. Looks as though it was in the volcano's path."

"It's one of my dreams to see the studio reopen," said X, who looks after Sir George Martin's homebelow the studio. "The volcano kills our hopes at the moment. But once the volcano stops, maybe my dream come true."

Oasis put a spin on their latest release

Paul McCann

While Beatlemania seemed to consist mainly of teenage girls crushing policemen and knocking their hats off, this month's Oasismania will be characterised by a carefully co-ordinated public relations plan that involves a television documentary, teasing out radio play and keeping fans hanging on to the last minute to get their hands on the new album, *Be Here Now*.

The band's record company, Creation, has taken the unusual step of making sure the record is heard first in stores, rather than on the radio, by limiting the number of tracks that can be played on air.

Instead, from today, fans will be able to hear the whole album in Virgin Megastores for 10 days, before it goes on sale on 21 August. Virgin is even keeping its shops open late tonight to play the album for the first

time. Then, from the beginning of next week, the remainder of the album will be released to radio stations, to generate a second wave of hype.

This will be followed on Wednesday, 20 August, by the airing on BBC 1 of an exclusive documentary about the band, *Oasis: Right Here Now* will show the group returning to Manchester, and they will play a number of songs from the new album.

After what is, in effect, an extended advertisement for the album, *Be Here Now* will go on sale the following morning. Creation has told record stores they cannot open at midnight to sell the album because this would disadvantage smaller, independent record shops.

The timing of the release, a Thursday, is unusual because it gives the album only a few days on sale before the weekly charts are compiled, but no one is pre-

dicting it will be anything other than an instant number one.

Instead, the release date was timed because Creation Records has its eye on a much bigger prize: the world. Across the world, and crucially, in the United States, *Be Here Now* will go on sale on the same date.

A Creation spokeswoman claimed yesterday that the PR for the album's release was nothing out of the ordinary. "There's TV, there's radio play and

there's press interviews and reviews. It's totally standard."

But few who have reviewed the album have treated it as standard. The *Observer* put its review of the album on its front page this week, and the album has been almost universally praised.

Only songwriter Noel Gallagher, the album's driving creative force, seems to be keeping a sense of perspective, describing it as "the same old pun rock bollocks".

Official: losing weight really is an uphill task

Jeremy Lawrence
Health Editor

It is one of life's injustices that eating less can mean gaining more. Those who eat moderately and exercise regularly all their lives are still prone to middle age spread, scientists have found.

The male waist - and the female rear - tend to expand with each passing decade, even when the quantity of calories consumed and exercise taken remains unchanged.

Figures confirming that obesity is now one of the western world's greatest health problems were published yesterday, as scientists said that the only hope of maintaining a svelte figure throughout life is to add a mile or two to the jogging circuit and cut a chocolate bar or two from the diet each year.

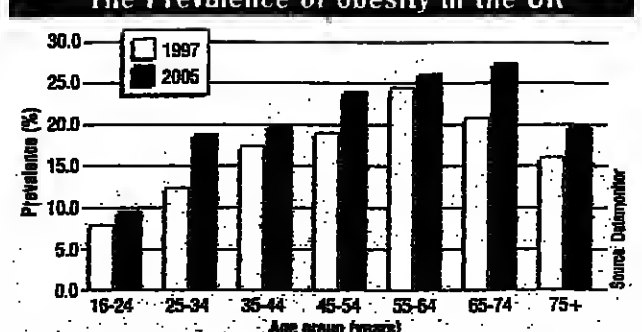
Obesity has doubled in the

UK in the last ten years to 15 per cent and more than half the population is now classified as overweight. By the year 2005, more than one in five of those over 25 and one in four of those over 45 will be obese, according to the report by the market research organisation Datamonitor.

A US study of nearly 4,700 men aged under 50 who jogged regularly found that, although leaner than sedentary men, they gained weight and girth over the years at almost the same rate regardless of the miles run per week. An average 6 ft man gained about 3.3 lbs and about three-quarters of an inch round the waist for each decade of life regardless of whether he ran less than 10 miles or more than 40 miles a week.

Paul Williams, of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California who

led the research, said waist line expansion appeared to be a force of nature which occurred independently of the decline in physical activity associated with ageing. "Instead of doing less, as we get older we should be doing more," he said.



are part of a larger study of 55,000 runners. They suggest that to keep weight gain to a minimum, joggers need to run an extra 1.4 miles a week each year, or 14 miles extra each decade. Mr Williams, a statistician, admitted: "It is a little ambitious. You have to be practical."

Dr Nicholas Peirce, research

fellow in obesity and exercise at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, said: "If you eat exactly the same and do exactly the same amount of exercise throughout life, you will tend to put on weight. But it is a dangerous assumption to then say that exercise is no use in curbing weight. If you take two groups of people evenly matched in every respect except the amount of exercise they take, the ones who do less will on average be larger."

People need fewer calories as they age because of hormonal changes, reduced metabolism and the decline in muscle bulk which is one of the major determinants of the amount of energy spent. The distribution of fat on the body also changes with advancing years with more deposited round the abdomen in men and on the hips and

thighs in women. The result of these changes is that a ten mile jog by a 70-year-old, although physically more demanding than for a 20-year-old, burns less energy because there is less muscle to power. To achieve the same weight reducing effect the 70-year-old would have to jog many miles further.

The Datamonitor survey says there is a vast potential market for anti-obesity drugs now under development which are currently used to treat only 5 per cent of the obese. In the US alone, there are an estimated 22 million obese adults which is expected to grow to 26 million by 2005.

However the report says that public education aimed at diet and exercise has a far better chance of curbing growing girls.

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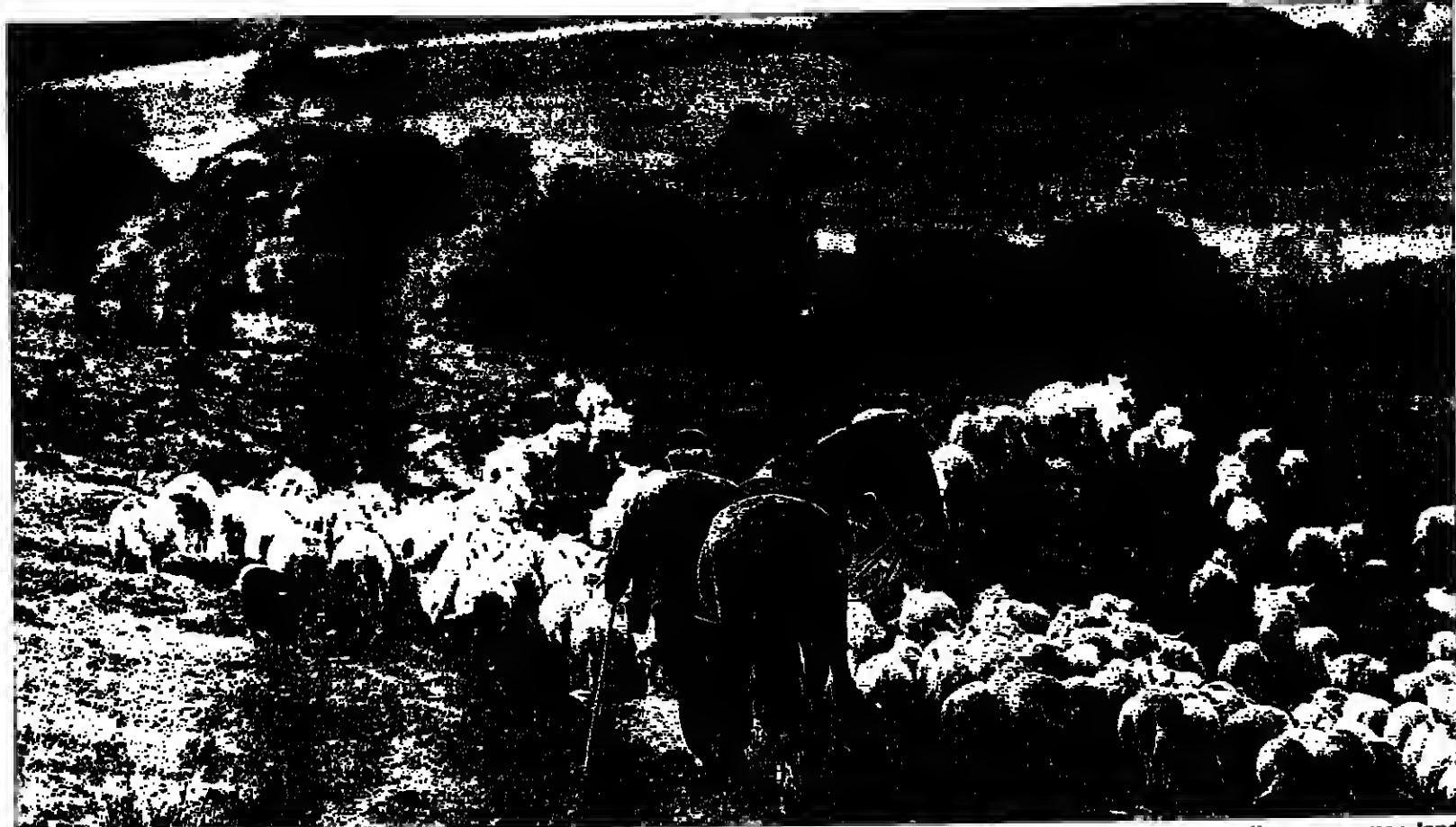
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Welsh feud: Farmers bringing their sheep down from the Black Mountains in Powys for dipping after their summer months on common land where environmentalists claim overgrazing – by as many as ten sheep to the acre instead of three – is ruining the moors. Photograph: David Hurst

Minister gives BP profits to private school

Lucy Ward
Education Correspondent

Lord Simon of Highbury and Canonbury is to donate profits from the sale of his BP shares to fund places at an independent school, just as the Government is abolishing state subsidies for private education.

The move will provide further ammunition for Conservatives keen to capitalise on damage caused to the Government by the shares controversy.

Though the donation is a personal decision, it exposes clear differences in attitudes to private education between a minister and the Government.

Lord Simon, the Minister for

Trade, who announced last week he was selling his £2m shares in BP following Opposition allegations of conflict of interest, is to divide an estimated profit of £350,000 among a number of charities, including his old school, Christ's Hospital.

The West Sussex school, founded in 1552 to care for London's poor, uses income generated through its ancient investments and property holdings and donations from benefactors to subsidise education for bright children from poorer families.

The minister's gift, which will be used to provide more financial assistance for pupils, comes as legislation abolishing the assisted places scheme reaches the Statute Book.

The Government plans to use £160m, saved by phasing out the scheme, to cut infant class sizes. It has pledged to keep classes for five, six and seven-year-olds to a maximum of thirty pupils.

When Tory peers attempted to overturn part of the plans, the Government dismissed their arguments as "privilege defending privilege".

Lord Simon declined to comment last night. The Department for Trade and Industry

said the minister had given his wife full responsibility for selecting charities to benefit from the charitable trust fund being set up on his behalf by a London bank.

Lord Simon, 56, won a scholarship to Christ's Hospital in 1950, and was made head boy in 1958. He already gives financial support to two pupils at the school, where all 800 places are assisted to some degree and 38 per cent of parents pay no fees at all.

David Bridges, partnership director at Christ's Hospital, said the school had 62 places paid for by the Government under the assisted places scheme. The scheme is being phased out after this year.

Another charity chosen by Lord Simon's wife to benefit from the shares profits is the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. Lord Simon's late father Roger was a Spitfire pilot and veteran of hundreds of wartime missions.

Mr Bridges said yesterday he did not yet know the extent of Lord Simon's donation to Christ's Hospital. He added: "We surmise that it will be to fund places in the school for one or more pupils in the future."

Violence in the home to be reviewed

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

A Government review of action to combat domestic violence is being carried out across Whitehall departments following fears that there could be substantial under-reporting of attacks on women in the home.

Joan Ruddock, the Minister for Women, has taken charge of the review covering all the key Government departments to establish whether the Government could do more to tackle domestic violence, and bring offenders to trial.

It follows a meeting with Home Office minister Alun Michael, who is reviewing police guidelines and the collection of statistics on the extent of violence in the family.

Domestic violence is not a legally defined offence, and the police are not currently required to identify domestic violence incidents in their statistical returns to the Home Office, or to record the relationship between the victim and the offender.

Mr Michael told Paul Flynn, the Labour MP, that the Government was committed to tackling domestic violence on every front. "We are currently examining the policies operating in this area, with a view to ensuring that we have an effective strategy against domestic and sexual violence."

Mr Flynn last night called for domestic violence to be made a legally defined offence. He also said ministers should review the provision of battered women's refuges.

Domestic violence is seen by Shelter as one of the main reasons for homelessness among

young people and women. But ministers admit that it is "difficult to assess exactly how many cases of domestic violence occur in England and Wales."

Ms Ruddock's review will cover the action taken in 1995 by the Tory Government to co-ordinate measures across Whitehall with an inter-departmental committee on domestic violence.

The Home Affairs Select Committee found in 1993 that the police response to domestic violence had improved, and called for a national campaign against domestic violence.

The Home Office issued a circular in 1995 which said that domestic violence was difficult to report "due to the emotional relationship between the victim and the perpetrator"; there was a fear of reprisals and a tendency among the victims to minimise rather than exaggerate the violence to hide it from families and friends. Often victims were pressured by their family to remain in the relationship, or were financially dependent on the offenders.

The circular said: "Repeated abuse may undermine a woman's confidence in her ability to take decisions and act."

The Government said its approach was based on the premise that domestic violence was "a serious crime which must not be tolerated. The priority must be to stop the violence occurring."

The 1994 British Crime Survey said there were around 1.1 million incidents in 1993, making domestic violence the most common form of assault, but only around one quarter of the incidents of domestic violence were reported.

DAILY POEM

As of now

By Dom Moraes

Time has passed, she hasn't come.
Once there were guns and betrayals.

In the delta, stained bodies of men
earned my typewriter a hanner by-line.

Once there were airplanes to adventure:
unheard rivers, unfound parts of myself,

accidentally come upon; the lost tribes,
the rescued prisoners; once there were

orchids in mountains, and promises:
the delicate appraisals made by death.

Once the moon watched, in five continents,
my beds rumpled by women, not by love.

Now why should the absence of one woman
interpose itself between the moon and me?

This poem comes from the latest issue of the *London Magazine* (£7.95), edited by Alan Ross. Celebrating 50 years of Indian independence, it embraces new fiction, verse, essays, memoirs, photographs and reviews. Subscriptions to the *London Magazine* cost £28.50 per year from 30 Thurloe Place, London SW7.

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صدا من الامن

Last reel for Puttnam as he begins mission to educate



Star quality: *Chariots of Fire* (left), which won four academy awards (Photograph: Kabal), and *Local Hero*, starring Burt Lancaster and Peter Capaldi



Lord Puttnam: 'I'm keen to move my centre of gravity away from the movie business'

lan Burrell

Within days of his elevation to the House of Lords, David Puttnam has completed his transformation from movie mogul to Government mover and shaker by signalling his intention to stop making films altogether.

Lord Puttnam, the producer of *Chariots of Fire*, *Memphis Belle* and *The Mission*, has said that he wants to concentrate on helping to re-shape the industry so as to provide better training and education for future British film makers.

The producer was recently appointed to head a new Government task force for the creative industries, which is aimed at getting the most from young British talent.

In an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, Lord Puttnam said: "I'm very keen to move my centre of gravity away from the movie business to what I call the education business. The next big industry that will be affected by the cinema industry is education. In areas like this we're good at creating but bad at exploiting."

Lord Puttnam has been gradually distancing himself from Hollywood since he returned to

Britain, disillusioned by his experience at the helm of Columbia Pictures.

He recently produced a book, *The Undeclared War*, in which he called on Britain and Europe to break the America's stranglehold of film-making.

In another recent interview, he indicated his annoyance at the lack of altruism among his film industry peers. He said: "Everyone always asks, 'What's in it for me?' and this really depresses me."

His own reluctance to cash in on his success has meant that he has had to live a more humble lifestyle than other movie moguls. Last September he was obliged to sell Kingsmead Mill, his house in Wiltshire, for a reported £3m to James Dyson, the vacuum cleaner tycoon.

But Lord Puttnam, who has north London working-class roots, has become a fervent Labour supporter.

Although he was active in the SDP in the 1980s, he forged links with Labour during an eight-year campaign for film industry tax breaks.

After Neil Kinnock's general election defeat in 1992, the film-maker was quick to offer a job to the Labour leader's ad-

viser John Newbiggin.

Since the election he has twice visited Downing Street to be feted by Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, and was made a Labour peer earlier this month.

Mr Kinnock's daughter, Rachel, is production co-ordinator of Puttnam's current

movie, *World of Moss*, which will be one of four he will make before he finally takes his bow.

The other films are the musical *Serenade*, *A Very Long Engagement*, which is set in the Great War, and *Fadeout* about a Czech actress during the war.

After which, Lord Puttnam

will be able to devote his time to creating the right conditions for the emergence of a string of new Puttnams. "It's a young man's game," he said in the interview. "And unless you're prepared to believe in all the bullshit there's a certain way in which you can't do it."

From Buggy to Killing Fields

Lord Puttnam, 56, began his career in advertising and photography before making his name in 1976 as the producer of *Bugsy Malone*, a gangster spoof with the parts played by children.

The following year he produced *The Duellists*, which won a Jury prize at Cannes, and paved the way for *Midnight Express*, which won two Academy awards in 1978 for its depiction of prison hell and *Chariots of Fire*, which won four academy awards in

1981 and was based on the race for Olympic gold in 1924.

After *Local Hero*, the story of an American executive in a Scottish village, and *Cal*, a Northern Ireland love story, his career reached new pinnacles with *The Killing Fields* (1985), which depicted the horrors of war in Cambodia, and *The Mission* (1986), a story of 18th century Jesuit priests in South America. Recent works have included *Memphis Belle* (1990) and *Le Confessionnal* (1995).

Prescott calls in to say: I'm in charge

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

John Prescott yesterday showed he was in charge of the Government in the Prime Minister's absence by telephoning a live BBC radio programme to intervene in a row over immigration visas for a group of trainee priests.

"Presco", as the deputy Prime Minister is known by Tony Blair, has been overshadowed by Peter Mandelson, the Government's "spin-doctor-in-chief", since they were left in charge by the Prime Minister when he went on holiday to Tuscany nine days ago.

Mr Mandelson has taken the spotlight in recent days, appearing for the Government on a range of issues, including the sale of Lord Simon's shares, the Royal Yacht and the inquiry into allegations that Chris Patten leaked details of a secret deal between London and Peking.

Mr Prescott yesterday interrupted the BBC *Today* programme after hearing a report over breakfast that the trainee priests were being refused entry because of problems over visa clearance. It is understood that he was at Dorneywood, a Government country house, and checked with Downing Street before calling the programme.

The priests, from Africa and Asia, are studying in Belgium and wanted to come to the UK for up to eight weeks for work experience and to act as holiday relief for British priests.

The decision to refuse them entry was described by a London priest as "naïve...stupid...sheer ignorance...bad manners...something they (the authorities) should be ashamed of".

Father Kit Cunningham, of St

Eithreda's, Holborn, in central London, said it was "naïve and stupid" on the part of Foreign Office officials to suggest they would overstay their visas.

"The idea is just so ludicrous that these men should come over, get lost, then reappear as tobaccoists in Luton. The mind just boggles."

Mr Prescott telephoned the programme and ordered an immediate inquiry at the Foreign Office. "There might be a perfectly good reason but I'm not yet satisfied that there is," he said.

"If this story is right, there seems to be a certain amount of injustice. Here's people wanting to come to Britain. University students studying Theology."

The Foreign Office last night said the decision to refuse visas was being "urgently" reviewed by the British consul, who was contacting the trainee priests for more information about the purpose of their visit.

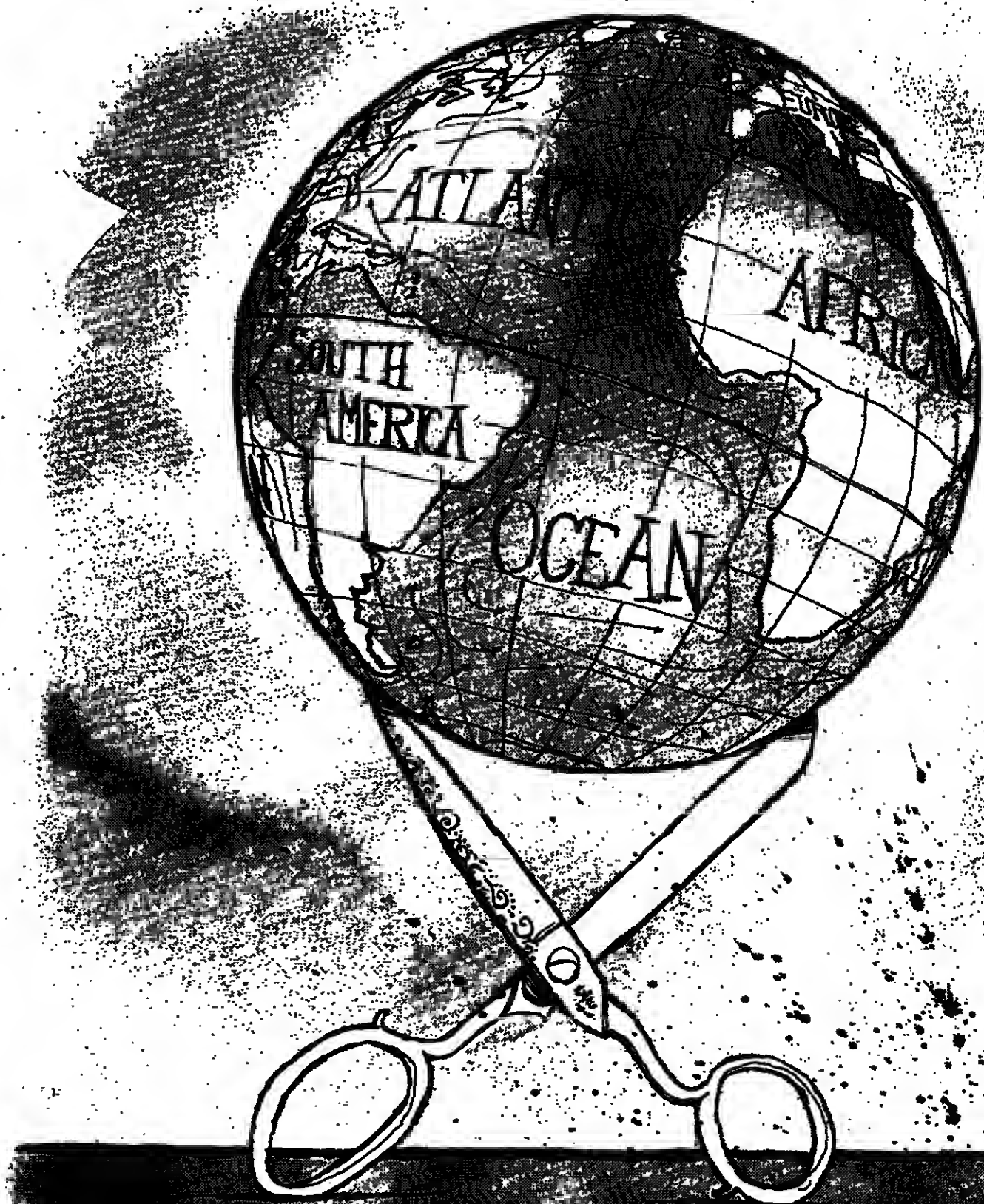
"It is as a result, he is satisfied that their applications now fall within the Immigration Rules, visas will be issued," said a Foreign Office spokesman.

Mr Mandelson, who is running for election to the party's national executive committee at the Party conference in October, will be able to steal back the limelight on Thursday. He is planning to deliver a Fabian Society lecture which will invoke the spirit of Lady Thatcher.

He is expected to say: "We obviously didn't agree with her vision in 1979, but she knew what she wanted to achieve. Tony Blair has got to put in place the same rock-hard determination to tackle the social ills and economic causes of social exclusion."

Leading article, page 13

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news

Troubled council suspends third officer

Christian Wolmar
Westminster Correspondent

The Planning Director of Doncaster Council has been suspended following allegations of improper relations between the council and developers.

David Ellis, the Planning Director since 1987, was the third officer to be suspended by the beleaguered council after allegations of misconduct by both officers and councillors emerged in February this year in a district auditor's report. Mr Ellis's suspension on full pay follows a similar move taken against his assistant, Graham Raynor, last week.

Five councillors have also been suspended by the national Labour Party as well as the local district party at the end of last month in what has become known locally as 'Donnygate'. The suspension of the district party means that council candidates for next May's elections will be selected by the national, rather than the local, party. Events in Doncaster are a continuing embarrassment to the Labour Party which has sought to avoid the type of sleaze which engulfed and ultimately destroyed the last Tory government.

Although the district auditor initially focused on overspending on lunches and trips abroad by councillors, more recently a series of complaints about the council's planning department has emerged. Councillors have been alleged to have supported planning applications for developers against officer's ad-

vice, and an officer is also accused of having written a developer's planning application.

Council officers in the planning department have complained of interference by councillors seeking to push the interests of particular developers. The council has been criticised several times by the Department of the Environment for breaching guidelines on developments in the green belt. A 1995 letter obtained by *The Independent* from the local regional Government office to Mr Ellis says that civil servants were "concerned that the green belt issue does not appear to have been adequately addressed in a number of committee reports" including several major developments.

The planning chairman, Peter Birks, was one of the councillors suspended after allegations that he failed to declare he was living in a £175,000 house owned by a developer but now the focus of the investigation has moved to the officers themselves. A council spokesman said yesterday that "it was only fair that the two council officers should be suspended to enable inquiries to be conducted in line with the council's disciplinary procedures".

Council leader Peter Welsh and deputy leader Ray Stockhill resigned their posts soon after the scandal emerged, and chief executive Doug Hale was suspended at the end of April and then took early retirement. John Smith, the finance director, was also allowed to leave early.



At ease: A soldier wearing the traditional Royal Highland Fusiliers Tam O'Shanter on patrol in West Belfast yesterday

Photograph: Reuters

Troops get kitted out for peace

The Army is relaxing its security precautions for patrolling soldiers as a direct result of the new IRA ceasefire.

Troops will replace their hard helmets with regimental head dress when they are out on the streets, the Army announced yesterday.

The operational policy decision had been taken "in the light of the current assessment of the threat to the security forces following the declaration of the IRA ceasefire on July 20", said a spokesman.

Local Army commanders will retain the discretion to order soldiers to wear helmets for their personal protection during particular operational tasks.

The first sign of the reduced precautions came yesterday, when members of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, donned their traditional Tam O'Shanter when they went out on patrol in West Belfast accompanying Royal Ulster Constabulary officers.

A similar move was made in the wake of the IRA's 1994 ceasefire, but had to be quickly reversed when the republicans resumed their campaign 17 months later.

Call to automate baby hearing tests

Jeremy Laurence
Health Editor

All new-born babies should have their hearing tested with a new automatic probe, a government report is expected to recommend after research has shown that three out of four babies with hearing difficulties are being missed by current screening methods.

The report, by the Medical Research Council's Institute of Hearing Research in Nottingham, is understood to say that of 840 children born with per-

manent hearing problems each year, only one-quarter are identified by the standard hearing check at nine months. This usually involves one health visitor distracting the child while another makes quiet sounds to see whether the baby notices.

The test picks up one in four children with hearing loss and another one-quarter are identified in other ways by the age of 18 months. But half are not diagnosed until the age of three, according to *Health Which?* magazine. This means that they do not benefit from hearing

aids at a crucial time in their development.

The new test, which is cheaper and more accurate than the distraction test, involves inserting a probe into the baby's ear which sends out clicks and then listens for the tiny echoes that a healthy ear should send back.

Dr Tina Ramkalawan, one of the report's authors, says parents might be anxious that something is wrong but be unsure what it is and unable to do anything about it, according to the magazine.

"It is very worrying if you are a parent with a child who doesn't respond to you and you've no idea why. Parents may think they have got a difficult child when in fact the child just can't hear," Dr Ramkalawan said.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said that all recommendations on screening had to go before the National Screening Committee, chaired by Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's chief medical officer, which next meets in October.

Medical records held by GPs can be inaccurate or misleading, *Health Which?* magazine says. Of 23 volunteers who asked to see their records, five found mistakes. One patient had a pain in his left side recorded as a pain in his right, another had her age noted as 53 instead of 35.

Six patients said there were gaps in their medical histories. One found no records before 1995 and another found no mention of a prescription for methadone he had received for severe back pain.

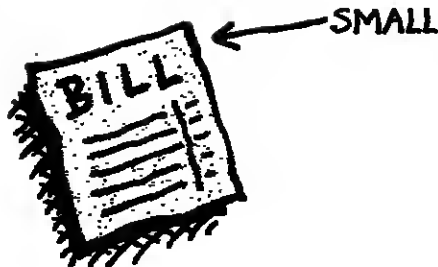
In a separate case that came

to light, a woman whose father sexually abused her as a child found her records had been changed. One entry, which she saw during one of her many visits to the surgery, referred to "bizarre and wild allegations appertaining to abuse by the father". When she later asked for her records this reference had been erased. Other records of visits to the same GP, a family friend, were also missing making her claims of sexual abuse look less credible. Her father was eventually convicted on evidence from another child victim.

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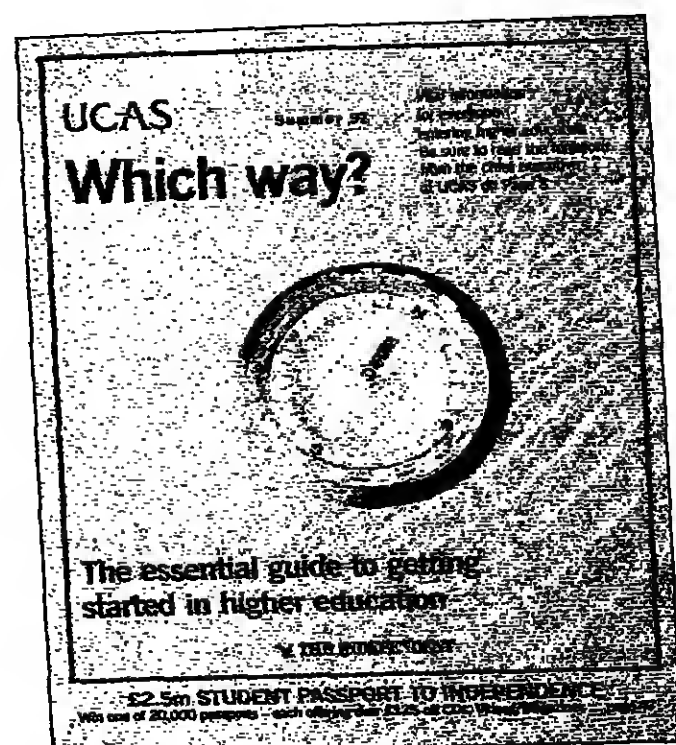
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The British children who want to end the US death penalty

Clare Garner

They call themselves "Juniors for Justice". A group of 11, 12 and 13-year-old crusaders from a remote religious community in southern England are flying to Pennsylvania this week to protest against the death penalty.

The youngsters, who have grown up at Darvell Bruderhof, an Anabaptist community in Robertsbridge, East Sussex, have been corresponding with inmates on death row for several years. In June they received a letter which stopped them in their tracks. "Wouldn't it be ironic if children did what every politician in this country would love to do, but are too intimidated to?" wrote Gary Norasak from his cell.

Words, they realised, were not enough. They must march to make their point.

Despite the fact that these children have been brought up in a world with no television, where the divorce rate is zero and crime is inconceivable, the strength of their social conscience means they spend most of their waking hours worrying about the gross injustices that go on inside the State Correctional Institute (SCI) Greene in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania.

"We are the future," said one, "and we're going to make a difference. If we want the world to be different, it's up to us."

On Friday they fly to the States to meet up with 180 children from the seven other Bruderhof communities. They will march for three days across 30 miles of Pennsylvania, waving banners and shouting for the abolition of the death penalty and the release of political prisoners. On August 20 they will

ally outside SCI Greene with politicians such as Tony Benn and Ramsey Clark, a former US Attorney-General.

The first Bruderhof community was founded in a German village in 1920 by Eberhard Arnold, a lecturer and writer. He was inspired by original Anabaptists such as the Amish, the sect from northern Pennsylvania featured in Peter Weir's 1985 film *Witness*, starring Harrison Ford and Kelly McGillis.

Like the Amish, the Bruderhof community have had a chequered history. They were expelled from Germany in 1937 and new Bruderhof communities were founded in England in the late 1930s. Today there are six communities on the east coast of America and two in south east England, with a worldwide membership of two thousand.

Bruderhof children are encouraged to care about human rights abuses from an early age. They are running the "Children's Crusade" by themselves. As Simon Mankie, one of the adults accompanying the children, explained: "We told the children we would support it, but it's their thing."

They have raised money for the march by selling dwarf rabbits and vegetables. They record donations on a colourful wall chart, bringing home to visitors just how young the campaigners are.

Eric Nelson, 13, one of six children chosen by the Bruderhof elder to go to America, feels the death penalty is "a poor man's issue". "In Pennsylvania, 60% of people on death row are non-white and only 10% of the population in Pennsylvania is non-white. It's very obvious that our statistics show that if you are a black man, you have

much more of a chance of getting on death row and being convicted because, on the whole, black people are poor." Last week he received an endorsement from Sister Helen Prejean, the author of the book *Dead Man Walking*. She described the children's march as a "sacred pilgrimage for life".

writing: "Jesus told us that unless we all become as little children we cannot enter the realm of God... Thanks and abundant blessings on the Bruderhof

Children who are teaching us today what these words of Jesus mean. My love and prayers are with you on the road."

Kathrina Rimes, 13, is also going to Pennsylvania. She opposes the death penalty because: "If you can't give life, you have no right to take it." "The crime is bad but we still believe

that the murderer is human and therefore shouldn't be treated like an animal and put on death row."

Children's moral war: 'Juniors for Justice' from the Bruderhof religious community in East Sussex preparing a banner for the march in Pennsylvania, helped by their teacher Bridget Maendel. Photograph: Andrew Hasson



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EH1

No more fee exemptions, says Labour

Lucy Ward
Education Correspondent

The Government yesterday resisted calls to extend exemption from university fees beyond students planning voluntary work, despite mounting pressure from opposition parties, students, vice-chancellors and headteachers.

Though delaying any formal announcement until Thursday, when A-level results are published, or even Friday, it gave clear signals that calls for a fee waiver for all students with a deferred university place for 1998 would be rejected.

Ministers were digging in their heels despite the threat of a legal challenge and predictions by admissions officials that the limited exemption would benefit only around 2,000 students out of 19,000 with deferred places. Vice-chancellors meeting ministers yesterday stressed the need for terms which allowed all students to "feel happy about continuing their gap year". And the Conservative education spokesman, David Willetts, called for an "urgent and authoritative statement", accusing the Government of causing more stress for A-level students by delaying an announcement.

Under plans to be announced in detail later this week, students with a firm offer of a place for 1998 who can prove they intend to do at least three months' voluntary work during their gap year will be exempted from fees.

All other students starting university next year and after will be liable for means-tested tuition fees of up to £1,000 per year of study, payable after graduation, plus thousands more in living costs following the abolition of maintenance grants.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, UCAS, has warned that 40,000-90,000 more students than in previous years could make late applications this summer to take advantage of the last year of free higher education. It fears its clearing system, which matches candidates to unfilled places, could be swamped by the rush.

The National Union of Students yesterday confirmed it would back any legal test case challenging the Government's decision. Lawyers are divided over the likely outcome, but education legal specialist, Jack Rabinowitz, said students would have grounds for a judicial review.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said it was "manifestly wrong" to limit the fees concession to those planning charity work, and insisted students fulfilling a university offer for a deferred place had met their side of a contract.

However, sources at the Department for Education and Employment insisted that while students planning voluntary work deserved assistance for helping society, others could earn money towards fees.

And the Treasury would argue strongly that a line had to be drawn, and that exempting more students would invalidate the decision to levy fees in the first place.

Barry Jackson, director of corporate affairs at the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said university leaders wanted students already committed to a gap year to feel content to continue with their plans. They did not want to see students left "in limbo" while the Government prepared to clarify its exemption deal, which emerged via press leaks.

news



Joining forces: Protester Piet harnesses technology at the environmentalists' HQ in Teigngrace for the fight against expansion by clay company WBB Photograph: Marc Hill

Villagers welcome eco-troops in battle to shield otter and badger from quarry

Louise Jury

The villagers were relieved when the protesters moved in. After two futile years of letter-writing and campaigning they see the shock troops of the eco-movement as their final chance. Where other protest camps have not always had local support, in the tiny hamlet of Teigngrace near Newton Abbot there is nearly 100 per cent backing for the band of thirty young people who have sparked debate in a way more routine methods did not.

At issue are plans by Watts Blake Bearn (WBB), a clay company, to divert the paths of the Rivers Bovey and Teign so as to expand clay quarrying. WBB say supplies of high quality clay are running out and they need the seam which runs under the river. It could provide a 100 year supply. Environmentalists claim the beautiful beatland is a haven for otters, badgers and other wildlife including the chrl bunting, the rarest bird in Britain. They are afraid it will be destroyed by the re-routing.

Within days of the first camps being set up, John Prescott, in his role as Environment Secretary, imposed a holding direction while he examined the files. A decision is expected in the next fortnight. The 200 citizens of Teigngrace hope he will hold a public inquiry. In the meantime, they are feeding and clothing the protesters and even dropping in daily newspapers. When the camps requested chocolate cake, locals had delivered fifteen cakes within the day. "They have given us hope,"

said Jill Bunce, 61, whose rented home will be over-shaded by a 150ft-high waste tip and lapped by the diverted river. "Everybody was very down when we heard the plans had gone through, and then there was lots of police activity and we discovered why and there was jubilation. "We'll have 100,000 of them if they're going spare," added her husband, Peter, 64, a retired engineer. "The villagers have done everything by the book and it's done nothing. We fear Teigngrace will just disappear,

if WBB aren't stopped." Joan Avery, 75, allows the protesters to charge their mobile phone in her cottage. "Watts Blake Bearn are a big firm and they think they can do what they like," she says. John Martin, 47, the chairman of the parish council, criticises the County Council who he said had completely failed to listen to what villagers have been saying. A plan for the Bovey basin which has been under discussion for months appears to have completely vanished, even though he believes it would rule out quarrying expansion, if accepted.

Many in the neighbouring towns of Newton Abbot and Kingstington support WBB. Jobs are hard to come by and many welcome any expansion by WBB. Stuart, 20, one of the protesters, comes from nearby Bovey Tracey and said he was there because he wanted to stop the destruction of the countryside. But his father, a long-distance lorry driver who sometimes has dealings with the

quarries, supported the plans. Yet Christine Martin, 48, who runs her own plant nursery, said any emphasis on jobs was short-sighted. Clay was a finite resource and they should be looking to the future. "Sustainable tourism to try to relieve the pressure on Dartmoor would be ideal." Dawn Crocker, for Watts Blake Bearn, said they were confident the plans would stand up to public scrutiny, but the delay caused by any public inquiry would cause them problems. The best clay deposits will run out in 1999. "We've been working on these plans for the last two years. The protesters move on site and suddenly we're a terrible company."

They said that there are only three areas in the UK where this grade of clay, used in bathrooms, and for tiles and crockery, is found. "The working of minerals will always cause an environmental impact, but it's a company policy that we do everything in our power to minimise that," she said.

Police get powers to identify child sex offenders

Patricia Wynn Davies and Louise Hancock

Police are to have new powers to warn local communities about sex offenders in their area, the Home Office said yesterday. But their scope will be limited and a United States-style "Megan's Law", under which the whereabouts of offenders are widely publicised, is ruled out for fear of vigilante action.

From 1 September, offenders convicted of or cautioned for a range of sexual offences will have to register their addresses in the National Sex Offenders Register proposed by the previous government and tell the police when they change their name or move home.

Guidelines published yesterday on police use of the information make it clear that ministers are opposed to forces automatically giving local residents the names and addresses of convicted offenders who move into their area on release from prison. Instead, forces will be expected to individually assess the seriousness of the risk posed by offenders, and whether naming them will displace offending somewhere else or drive offenders "underground" where they cannot be monitored by local agencies.

Alun Michael, the Home Office minister, said: "I believe the guidelines strike the right balance between keeping a check on where sex offenders, in particular paedophiles, are living, while at the same time allowing them the chance to mend their ways in the community."

But the guidelines have their limitations and are likely to be followed up with new measures for post-release supervision in the Government's planned Crime and Disorder Bill in the autumn. The Bill is expected to provide for supervision of sex offenders by probation officers for up to 10 years.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "It will take 10 years for the register to be up and running

properly. The real issue is the degree of treatment and control."

Home Office research indicates that there are 110,000 men in England and Wales who have committed a serious offence against a child but the register will not be retrospective. Mr Michael estimated that the register would contain 6,000 names by the end of this year and that 3,500 names would be added in each subsequent year. He also said that indeterminate or reviewable sentences could be added to the range of measures for tackling sex offenders.

Under the measures announced yesterday - which will cover convicted rapists as well as child sex offenders - police will be able to pass on details to employers, voluntary organisations and members of the public.

Tony Butler, Chief Constable of Gloucestershire and the crime committee spokesman for the Association of Chief Police Officers, said the recent High Court ruling which decided that North Wales Police were right to alert the public to two paedophiles who had moved into the area emphasised the need for a "case-by-case" approach.

"Any action must be taken in such a way as to add to protection rather than endangering it," he said. The guidance states that "disclosure to a member of the general public will very much be the exception to the rule". There can be no guarantee, however, that officially disclosed information will not leak to a wider audience.

Potential examples cited by the guidance include disclosure to a local education authority, headteacher, play-group leader or those running youth groups.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said the guidance laid "robust foundations for a national strategy to protect children from paedophiles".

Dealing with another highly controversial area, the guidance suggests that where disclosure would render an offender homeless this might increase the risk to the public.

Experts doubt claims that thalidomide can be inherited

Jeremy Laurence Health Editor

One of the world's worst medical disasters, caused by the drug thalidomide, may not be over yet, a pressure group said yesterday.

Claims by the Thalidomide Action Group that the damaging effects of the drug could be passed on to children were dismissed by British experts.

Eleven malformed babies have been born to victims of the original thalidomide tragedy, fuelling speculation that the disaster would continue to affect future generations.

Thalidomide was given to

pregnant women in Britain, Australia and Germany during the 1960s as a treatment for morning sickness and caused thousands of deformities.

Yesterday, the Thalidomide Action Group released the results of research on rats by Dr William McBride, the Australian doctor who revealed the dangers of the drug in the 1960s, which claims to show that thalidomide binds to DNA in egg and sperm cells. The research is published in the Oxford journal *Teratogenesis, Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis*.

Dr McBride has devoted much of his career to showing that the scale of the thalidomide tragedy is greater than anyone has realised. But his reputation was tainted after he was found to have falsified data in another project and struck off the Australian medical register. British specialists say it is impossible for a drug to cause a malformation which is then passed on to subsequent generations. Tests on thalidomide to see whether it has mutagenic potential have proved universally negative. Neil Buckland, director of the Thalidomide trust, the charity for the victims, said: "The specialists are convinced it cannot happen."

The most likely explanation for the high proportion of malformed babies born to thalidomide victims is that the parents were misdiagnosed. Distinguishing deformities caused by thalidomide from those with other causes is extremely difficult.

At the time of the disaster some children in whom the diagnosis was unclear were given the benefit of the doubt so that they qualified for compensation. Specialists who examined them at the time always warned that some would turn out to have hereditary defects not linked with thalidomide and that these would emerge later in their children.



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**Police get
powers to
identify
child sex
offenders**



The ANC believes that Janusz Walus (main picture, left) and Clive Derby-Lewis, who murdered Chris Hani (above) were part of a wider political conspiracy Photographs: AP

Mary Braid
Pretoria

Nomakhwezi, the teenage daughter of the late Chris Hani, one of South Africa's towering political figures, sat quietly in the front row of Pretoria City Hall yesterday looking at her father's killers.

As she gazed at Polish immigrant Janusz Walus, 42, and at Clive Derby-Lewis, 61, former South African Conservative Party MP, her mind must surely have drifted back to 10 April 1993.

That was the day Walus pumped four bullets into her father in the drive of their home. As her father's blood spilled across the paving stones and Nomakhwezi ran screaming for help, South Africa, in the middle of its precarious political transition, looked into the abyss.

With the murder of Hani – leader of the South African Communist Party (SACP), former head of the African National Congress's military wing and darling of the townships – the peace talks that promised to make Nelson Mandela the country's first democratically elected president hung by a thread. In the days leading up to his funeral, South Africa threatened to explode.

Yesterday Nomakhezi, with her mother Linpho, watched Wahus and Derby-Lewis ask the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for amnesty. Prominent ANC figures and SACP leaders joined them. It is the most politically sensitive case to have come before the Commission. According to Cheryl Carolus, the ANC's acting secretary general, it is the case which truly tests the credibility of the controversial TRC.

The Hanis, the ANC politicians and the SACP came to op-

pose the application of Walus, who pulled the trigger, and Derby-Lewis, who provided the gun and masterminded the assassination. The men are already serving life for the murder.

Central is the belief that Walus and Derby-Lewis were part of a wider political conspiracy. The most credible theory is that other extreme right-wingers were involved in the murder although the National Party and even Hani's ANC comrades have been accused of involvement.

The TRC balances its controversial power to offer amnesty with a promise to expose the truth about the atrocities of the apartheid era. Victims' families, barred from taking legal action against perpetrators if amnesty is granted, are expected to be comforted with the knowledge of how their loved ones died. Amnesty is, therefore, supposed to be granted only if full disclosure is made.

The Hani case highlights growing disquiet that the TRC is failing to reveal enough truths to justify depriving victims' families of redress through the courts.

"Hani was prepared to forgive," said Sam Tsiane, a local SACP official. "It is fine to grant amnesty, but only if they tell the truth. We want to know who gave them their instructions. Anything less and the TRC will lose the confidence of the community." His comrade was less compromising. "If they grant them amnesty it makes a mockery of the TRC."

The small group of right-wing supporters - including Derby-Lewis's wife Gaye, 58, who was acquitted of Hani's murder - was furious when the Hani family's counsel, George Bizos produced statements made by Walus and Derby-Lewis in de-

tion which apparently contradict their claim that they acted alone. The statements were not used in the original court case and are crucial to the Hani family's contention that full disclosure has not been made and amnesty cannot be granted.

Walus's lawyer claimed the statements were inadmissible because the police had plied him with alcohol. Gerald Derby-Lewis, Clive's younger brother, said: "These statements were made under torture." Mr Derby-Lewis said he did not share

his brother's politics but found it incredible that the TRC might not grant him amnesty after recently freeing four black youths who murdered an American student Amy Biehl.

acted alone. Walus claimed he killed Hani to prevent a hand-over to Communist rule. He said a "hit list" - comprising of nine names including Hani's and Mr Mandela's - found in his possession came from Derby-Lewis's home. He stuck by the

explanation given at his trial: Gaye Derby-Lewis had drawn up the list for use in parliament. He had simply borrowed it.

When Walus and Derby-Lewis were originally found guilty, Limpho Hani said justice had been only half done. Full

satisfaction would come when the other "plotters" were found. If the TRC fail to find any other conspirators and Walus and Derby-Lewis walk free, Mrs. Hani, and countless South Africans, will feel she has had no justice at all.



Comradely comfort: Winnie Mandela with Limpho Hani at the Commission hearing yesterday Photograph: AP

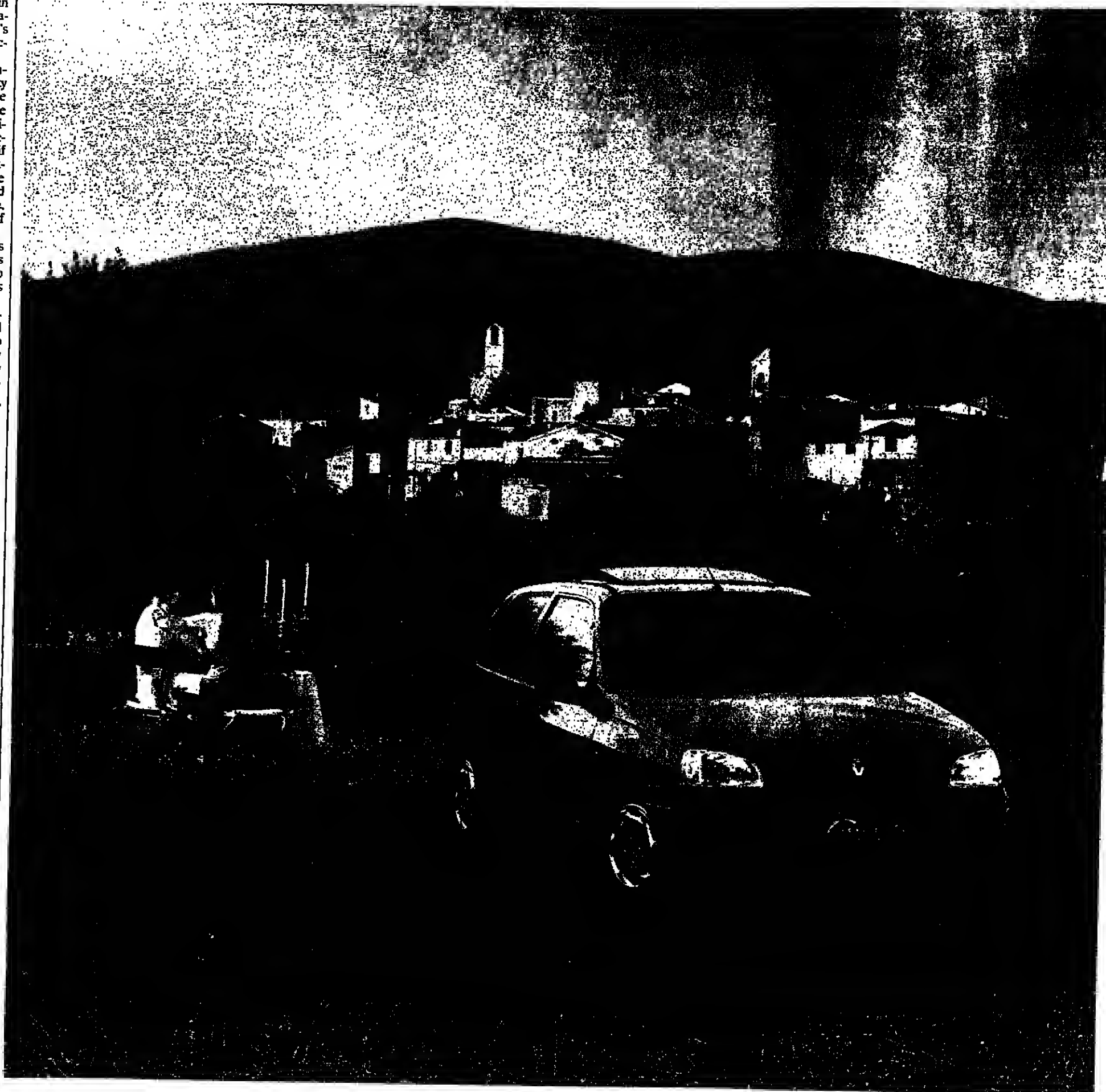
Seeking answers to heal the bitter wounds of the past

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was the foundation of South Africa's remarkable negotiated transfer of power. After decades of gross human rights abuses, including state-backed assassinations and torture, the country needed a mechanism for dealing with its past, writes Mary Braid.

A negotiated deal between the African National Congress and the National Party ruled out Nuremberg-style trials. And if all the guilty men had been pursued through the courts, it would have paralysed the justice system.

Thabo Mbeki, now the country's deputy president, and Kadar Asmal, now a government minister, came up with the idea of an independent Commission. The TRC would expose the truth about the apartheid era as a first step to healing a divided nation. The Commission began with public hearings for thousands of victims which proved harrowing but relatively uncontroversial.

In return for the truth, the TRC also offers perpetrators amnesty if they fully disclose their crimes and prove they were politically motivated. Victims are then barred from taking civil or criminal action against them. Last month the amnesty hearings began in earnest and are proving far more divisive as the killers of liberation heroes step forward. There are complaints that whites ignore the TRC. It is also claimed that the politicians who gave the orders are escaping, while the foot soldiers take the rap. The National Party, on the other hand, now claims that the TRC is conducting a witchhunt against it, and the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party alleges the same. The commission should have finished work in June but has been extended to December.



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Abdication card played by Cambodia's ailing king

Matthew Chance

Threatening to plunge Cambodia into renewed crisis, King Norodom Sihanouk yesterday told his country's leaders he was prepared to abdicate to make way for a younger successor, possibly his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

The prince was ousted as Cambodia's Co-Prime Minister in a bloody coup d'état in July, a move which the white-haired and infirm monarch has not publicly opposed, but which out of loyalty to his son he has refused to support outright.

The statement was released ahead of a meeting with the coup leader, Hun Sen, at the king's sumptuous palace in Peking. The building was presented to him by the sympathetic Chinese, complete with a heated swimming pool, servants and a reputed nine chefs, after he was deposed by an American-backed regime in the early 1970s.

Since his restoration by the brutal Khmer Rouge in 1975, the king has repeatedly threatened to abdicate. It is one of the few political levers at his disposal in a country where the monarch has little executive power but remains a powerful symbol.

For most Cambodians who have endured the brutal genocide at the hands of the Khmer Rouge, foreign invasions, and a 20-year civil war which has scarred their land and shattered millions of lives, the king has been of the few constants in the fabric of the nation. And while they have starved or struggled in poverty, they have never held against him his luxurious playboy lifestyle, which has taken him through four wives, copious amounts of champagne, and countless fast cars.

Much of the king's tastes can be traced to his extensive contacts with France, the colonial master of Indo-China until 1954, and the country where Sihanouk was both educated

and gained his military training. Since his coronation in 1941, aged 19 (he abdicated in the 1950s for five years, to serve as prime minister), he has been one of the most colourful leaders in Asia, garnering both fame and notoriety for his predilection for gourmet food, wine and entertainment.

Throughout the Fifties and Sixties, Sihanouk's most serious concern was to keep Cambodia out of the escalating war in neighbouring Vietnam, and it was his commitment to neutrality that earned the enmity of

years has led to long absences from Cambodia, and has reduced his once considerable political clout, which helped bring the warring Cambodian factions to an uneasy peace in 1991.

The king, at 74, now little more than a figurehead, holds a weak hand in the face of Hun Sen. He knows that his abdication would probably achieve little, as the power to choose a new monarch rests essentially with Hun Sen himself.

"Prince Ranariddh probably wouldn't even get a look in," said one diplomat in the capital, Phnom Penh. "There are plenty of other easily manipulated little princelings to choose from."

But there is one possibility which King Sihanouk must be acutely aware of. If Hun Sen is unable to secure the political blessing of the King, he might decide to alter the constitution and declare Cambodia a republic.

It may be too early to relegate such a wily survivor as the King to oblivion just yet. In spite of his illness, the monarch has hinted that he intends to return home in order to conduct Buddhist rituals in the ancient temple ruins of Angkor Wat and meet his subjects.

A high-profile return to Cambodia could well ignite popular royalist sentiment, stymie any attempts by Hun Sen to abolish the monarchy and dash

the aspirations of the coup leader to assume the office of president.

In the run up to general elections which are expected to take place next May, Hun Sen's main opponents for government will be Funcinpec, the royalist political party led by Prince Ranariddh.

If the elections are free and fair, though they may not be, a royal visit could swing public opinion further away from Hun Sen's Cambodian Peoples' Party and bring about a humiliating election defeat.



Faded glory: King Norodom Sihanouk, who is threatening to abdicate

'Ranariddh probably wouldn't even get a look in ... there are plenty of other little princelings to choose from'

the Americans and caused them to back his removal by the right-wing forces of Lon Nol.

Before his overthrow in 1970, he would entertain guests at banquets and moonlit performances of the Royal Ballet, at which he would delight in pointing out the beauty of a particular dancer.

The following day, he would spend hours in the courtyards of his Cambodian royal palace, listening to the complaints of peasants about the high cost of rice.

Worsening health in recent



Balanced living: Wang Yuzhang, a retired Chinese worker, performing her very individual form of exercises in a Peking park where thousands of elderly early risers congregate daily to sing, dance and exercise Photograph: AFP

Olympic protest group claim bomb

Stockholm (AP) — Sweden's national news agency, TT, received a letter yesterday claiming that an extremist group opposed to Stockholm's bid for the 2004 Olympic Games was behind last week's bomb blast at the city's Olympic stadium.

The letter, purportedly from a group calling itself "We who built Sweden", also warned of further attacks unless Stockholm withdrew its bid for the games. "We are the ones who burn and blow up sports arenas," the message said. "We have large reserves of explosives, automatic weapons and ammunition. Do not doubt our determination and ability."

But Swedish police said the note was probably not written by those who were responsible for the blast — the eighth attack against sports arenas in Stockholm since the government gave financial backing to Stockholm's bid in May.

"The contents suggest that someone else has written the letter, but it's hard to tell before the security service has analysed it," Stockholm police spokesman Claes Cassel told TT.

Police were comparing the letter with several arson and bomb threats against malls in Swedish cities during the Christmas shopping season.

Stockholm's chief of police, Sune Sandstrom, also denied a link between the letter and the arson attacks. "It would have been sent earlier if there was a clear connection to the bid," Mr Sandstrom said.

No one was hurt in Friday's pre-dawn explosion, which scattered glass, roof tiles and debris from the 1912 arena, the world's oldest Olympic stadium still in regular use.

Yesterday's note attacked the cost of the Games. "If Sweden is to arrange the Olympics, everyone involved in the preparations and arrangements will be our targets. This includes athletes and audiences," it said.

Opponents of the bid claim the Olympics would drain more money from Sweden's cradle-to-grave welfare system, which has been suffering cutbacks in recent years.

Politicians and sports officials publicly said the bombing would have no effect on Stockholm's chances of winning the bid to arrange the games, but the *Aftonbladet* newspaper summed up what many people feared, "End of the Olympic Dream," a front-page headline said at the weekend.

The International Olympic Committee is to decide on 5 September which city will organise the 2004 Olympics. The other candidates are Buenos Aires; Argentina, Cape Town; South Africa, Athens; Greece and Rome.

significant shorts

Clinton uses new power of veto to amend budget

Wielding a power sought by United States presidents for generations, Bill Clinton yesterday struck from the new federal budget a provision allowing US companies to defer taxes from some overseas income. The line-item veto, which Congress passed last year, gives the president the authority to strike individual items from spending and tax bills. Until now, a president had to either veto the entire measure or sign it in its entirety. AP — Washington

Gloom mars Cyprus talks

Leaders of the two main communities in Cyprus put on a display of joviality for the formal opening of a new round of talks. President Glafcos Clerides and the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş appeared relaxed as they sat down for the discussions at a luxury Swiss hotel. But gloom was deepened by Mr Denktaş insisting on absolute political equality with Mr Clerides — anathema to the Greek Cypriots. Reuters — Montreux

Warrior father falls from grace

A former Indian prince has been ostracized from his Hindu warrior caste for allowing his daughter to marry a commoner relative. The Rajput Sabha, representing the caste of Hindu warriors, excommunicated Bhawani Singh for allowing his daughter, Diya, to marry a family aide, the United News of India reported. AP — New Delhi

Last Italians leave Albania

The last 60 Italian soldiers of an Italian-led multinational force in Albania pulled out of Tirana, one day before the end of their mandate. Scores of Greek soldiers remain in Elbasan, but they are no longer part of the multinational force, and their presence is a bilateral agreement between the Greek and Albanian governments. AP — Tirana

Plea to save Berlin Wall

Archivists, artists and politicians called for a concerted effort to protect the last remaining fragments of the Berlin Wall from property developers. Trophy hunters and the weather. "There is hardly anything left of this piece of global history," said Rainer Hildebrandt, director of the Haus am Checkpoint Charlie museum. Reuters — Berlin

Greece and Turkey move closer

Christopher de Bellaigue on hopes of a Mediterranean thaw

Ask punters in an Ankara *meyhane* what they think of their domestic politics, and they might, fortified by the national brew, describe it as Byzantine. As for customers in an Athens taverna, they could, between slurps on a similar, aniseed-based potion, liken their parliament to the Ottoman court. Both images suggest intrigue and betrayal, but from the perspective of relations between raki-drinking Turks and ouzo-drinking Greeks, this is no bad thing; the more their politicians have in common, the better.

Nowadays, in important ways, this is quite a lot. The Turks are happy to see that the Greek Prime Minister, Costas Karamanlis, having got the better of anti-Turks at home, is plodding determinedly away from the muscle-flexing of his predecessor, Andreas Papandreu. As

for the Greeks, they are relieved that Mesut Yilmaz — another fine plodder — recently took over as Turkish Prime Minister from Necmettin Erbakan, whose Islamist inclinations meant that he was more interested in Libya than Greece.

The new configuration notched up its first success on 9 July, during a Nato summit in Madrid. Egged on by Madeleine Albright, Mr Simitsis and Turkey's President Suleyman Demirel got together to talk about reducing tension between their countries. Theodoros Pangalos, Greece's Foreign Minister, and Ismail Cem, his Turkish counterpart, did the same. The result was the grand-sounding Madrid Accord, in which Turkey and

Greece promised not to take up arms to resolve disputes in the Aegean Sea.

An important spur to better relations is Europe. Mr Simitsis knows that being unkind to the Turks upsets his EU partners, who are fed up that Greece is blocking 375m euros (£260m) of funds earmarked for Turkey. As for Mr Yilmaz, he judges — correctly — that being friends with Greece will enhance Turkey's slim chances of EU membership. This view is shared by Mr Cem. On 18 July, the new foreign minister began his maiden press conference not with a traditional, anti-Athens broadside, but by suggesting that Turkey improve its dismal human rights record. He is supported by Turkish businessmen; they reckon

on bilateral trade — currently worth only \$300,000 (£185,000) a year — could rise to several billion if tension stays down.

The fly in the raki — or the ouzo — is Cyprus which also has aspirations to join the EU. But, there are signs of life there, too.

Earlier this month, the leaders of the Turkish and Greek armies met for the first time in three years. Yesterday, talks between Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş began at a luxury hotel overlooking Lake Geneva. The UN special envoy for Cyprus, Diego Cordovez said he did not expect the problem to be solved at the five-day meeting. Yet he was cautiously, pragmatically, optimistic. "It will be different," he said.

"We are changing the procedure. It has to be an incremental thing where you go slowly building an agreement. In the past, they started from zero and ended with zero. They started from zero trying to get one hundred."

But this will not be easy. On 16 July, the EU confirmed that it wants to begin negotiating Cypriot accession to the Union, which pleased the Greek Cypriot majority but infuriated the other side, which insists that Turkey be allowed in at the same time.

Never mind that the EU's decision had been expected, and that some EU members have said they will veto Cypriot accession unless the Turks agree; the EU's announcement has given voice to hawkish Turks — like Bulent Ecevit. An elderly

nationalist with a famous mistrust for the EU, it was Mr Ecevit who ordered Turkish troops into Cyprus in 1974, after an Athens-inspired coup there threatened union with Greece. On 20 July, as Mr Yilmaz's new deputy prime minister, he announced that, rather than be shoeboxed into the EU, Turkish Cyprus will "integrate partially" with Turkey. Last week, Turkey and northern Cyprus agreed to work towards partial integration, in an agreement which called for an Association Council.

The deal came under fire from Britain, America and others. They hope that Mr Ecevit will not influence Mr Yilmaz's policy of détente, nor further strain Turkey's relationship with the EU. If Mr Yilmaz gets his way, they hope, the thaw can continue.

Shockwaves on the Seine after 28 are hurt as tourist boat crashes into bridge

Paris (AP) — A double-decker tourist sightseeing boat rammed into a bridge on the Seine yesterday, injuring 28 people, at least one seriously. No one fell into the water, and most of the injuries were light.

Still, it was a rare accident for the popular sightseeing boats — known as *bateaux mouches* — that ply the river day and night.

"I was facing the other way," said Audrey Houghton, from Oxfordshire. "And then, nothing, black. I just felt knocked out. I hit my head on the railing."

Mrs Haughton's husband was carried out by paramedics on a bright orange body splint — apparently the one person seriously injured. "He was talking and then he collapsed," she told reporters. "I don't know any more."

Bernard Schmitt, from Alsace, was there with his son. "There were people who went over the tops of the seats," he said.

The accident happened just before noon, in the heart of Paris. The boat, the *Paris 18*, is owned by the Vedettes du Pont Neuf company, one of

about a half-dozen companies that run tourist boats along the river. The company's director, Eric Levavasseur, said the problem happened when the boat was about to pass under the Pont Royal.

Due to an electronic glitch, the boat struck an arch of the bridge before the captain had time to correct the move, he said. Then, he added, the boat went back to its course and made its way back to its dock near the Pont Neuf.

The boat, with a capacity for 100 people, was carrying about 70

tourists of different nationalities. Most of the injured appeared to have suffered bruises, but were not seriously hurt. A woman in her 60s hurt her neck, and had to be put in a neck brace.

Sixteen people were sent to nearby hospitals, police said. About 50 firemen were on hand to help with the rescue efforts.

"Obviously people were panicked by the shock," said a river fire brigade spokesman. "This was a pleasant tourist cruise, and you don't exactly expect something like this."



Nightmare trip: An injured tourist being evacuated after the collision Photograph: AP

سكرا من الاصل

Palestine and Israel steer joint course

Stephanie Nolen
Jerusalem

Two dusty Jeeps, packed with Israeli and Palestinian soldiers, cruised through the West Bank town of Tulkarim yesterday afternoon. They did not attract much attention in sleepy Tulkarim, but in fact they were the first tangible product of the latest effort by the United States to patch up the Middle East peace process. The soldiers were on the first joint Israeli-Palestinian pa-

triot to take place since two suicide bombers killed 13 people in a Jerusalem market two weeks ago, after which Israel immediately broke off its relations with the Palestinian Authority (PA).

US State Department special envoy Dennis Ross arrived in Jerusalem on Saturday night, on a new initiative to revive peace talks. He was supposed to have come two weeks earlier, seeking to break a five-month deadlock in the talks, but his travel plans were scuttled by the bombing.

Mr Ross shuttled between the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat all day on Sunday. His efforts culminated in a midnight meeting in Ramallah, where he met with Mr Arafat; Ami Ayalon, the head of Israeli Internal Security Services; and Amin al-Mindi, head of PA Intelligence Services. Afterwards, a spokesman for Mr Arafat confirmed that the PA had resumed its security co-ordination with Israel.

Demands for security have been the steady Israeli refrain since the bombing. The PA officially suspended all co-operation, such as the joint patrols, after Israel slapped a punishing military closure on the West Bank and Gaza strip in the wake of the attack.

Mr Netanyahu said yesterday that he would be satisfied "only when we know we are getting all the intelligence information that they [the PA] have". In fact, the Israeli defence minister Yitzhak Mordechai said last Friday, before the Ross mission, that

there was already a "satisfactory" level of co-ordination. But by stressing the security issue, Mr Netanyahu can win points with an Israeli audience still jittery after the market attack, and ensure that political issues stay off the Ross agenda.

Arriving on Saturday, Mr Ross said he was sent with three objectives: to pave the way for a visit by the US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, now slated for late August; to resume security co-operation, and to get both sides back to the negotiating

table. By those criteria, he has done remarkably well in just two days, and the overall Israeli reaction to his first day's work has been very positive.

Palestinians, however, are asking what happens if they come back to the table: they are still waiting for the implementation of agreements signed with Israel more than two years ago. Mr Ross reportedly assured Mr Arafat that if the security question could be resolved, Ms Albright would undertake a broader political initiative on her visit.

The self-effacing academic who refuses to let peace in the Middle East out of his sights



As of this weekend, Dennis Ross, whose unlikely title is "Special Middle East Co-ordinator in the US Department of State", is back in the region, trying yet again to persuade Israelis and Arabs to coexist, permanently, in peace. The trip is officially the one that was postponed after the two suicide bombings in Jerusalem three weeks ago.

But those bombs also prompted a re-think in Washington, convincing the United States - it is said - to revert to a more hands-on role (after several months of leaving well alone) and press for an accelerated fulfilment of the Oslo accords. This would bring the delicate matter of jurisdiction over Jerusalem onto the agenda sooner than either the Israelis or the Palestinians had envisaged.

If that is so, then Mr Ross, who has been shuttling around the Middle East for the last five of his 48 years, is seen by most observers as the only man for the job. His immediate task is to test the water to gauge whether further progress is possible - on that will depend

After five years, Dennis Ross leads a new US initiative in the region, writes Mary Dejevsky

whether the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, makes her first official visit to the region later this summer. Mr Ross, described by friends and sceptics alike (enemies would be too strong a word) as an apparition, takes a studiedly low profile, as he has done since the start of his career. He gives the impression of a grey, rather self-effacing man, more at home in the corridors of academe and the state department than in the glare of television lights. His middle initial, B, reportedly stands for nothing, it just fills out his name.

A Californian, who initially specialised in Soviet studies and Soviet policy towards the Middle East, he has worked in government - the Pentagon, the state department - since the late Seventies, with one break in the early Eighties when he ran a Soviet studies course at the universities of Berkeley and Stanford.

Although a Democrat, his front-line diplomatic role began when he became adviser to then Secretary of State, James Baker, as the Soviet Union was breaking up. His speciality was the impact of Communism's fall on regional issues, and his vast accumulated experience of the Middle East makes him, in the words of one associate, "indispensable" to the peace process. After a decade, he now knows all the players personally.

The strongest opinion ventured by sceptics is that Mr Ross has perhaps been shuttling around the Middle East for too long, that knowing the players could be a disadvantage and that, just maybe, Washington needs a fresh mind and a fresh face to tackle fresh problems, even though they are just aggravated forms of a very old problem.

One argument that is not advanced against Mr Ross in this

context is his Jewish background. He knows Israel intimately and spends holidays there. His children are named Gabriel, Rachel and Ilana. Yet, it is said, his biggest recent problems have been not with Yasser Arafat or the Palestinians, who are said to have come to trust him, but with the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr Ross is said to have had two liabilities in his dealings with the present Israeli government. Despite serving the Republican administration of George Bush, he is a Democrat - and since the Reagan administration Democrats are now deemed to be less friendly towards Israel than Republicans. He is also seen (along with many in the state department) as having staked so much on agreements reached with the former Israeli leadership, that he regarded the election of Netanyahu, albeit by the slimmest of majorities, as a disaster.



Trusted: Above, Dennis Ross, Middle East diplomat. Above far left, with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat; above left, with Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu

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US unions fight back in service sector

Mary Dejevsky
Washington

The umbrella organisation for United States trade unions, the AFL-CIO, yesterday launched a media campaign intended to attract new members from sections of the work force - low-paid, low-skilled workers in the retail and service sectors - it has barely tapped before. The launch came on the day that one of the biggest strikes in recent years, called by the Teamsters Union at United Parcel Service, went into its second week with no sign of a solution.

While the conjunction of the recruitment drive with the continuing strike was an accident, many believe that the times are potentially more conducive to trade union activism than they have been for years. The US has a record number of people in employment, but wages have been almost static in low-paying jobs. As the UPS strike has shown, many full-time workers in comparatively well-paid jobs fear they could be replaced by cheaper part-timers. The genesis of the UPS strike is the proportion of part-timers and their low pay compared to that of full-time workers.

The AFL-CIO drive focuses on members relating how their union has helped them and their families. It includes trade union intervention to obtain compensation for industrial injuries,

TO THE PUBLIC
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Parcel forces: Trade unionists at UPS strike to protect full-time jobs

equal pay for equal work and improving working conditions.

The AFL-CIO says that membership offers workers the sort of protection and bargaining clout they either do not have or fear they could lose. Some campaigners for union recognition are former industrial workers dissatisfied with the pay and conditions in the service sectors where the new jobs are. Trade unions still face formidable difficulties, not just from employers, but from workers fearful of "spoiling" relations with management.

The problem was illustrated last week when workers at a Wal-Mart supermarket in Wisconsin voted against joining a union. But the fact that this was the first Wal-Mart store to face such a vote indicates that trade unionism in the US is not dead yet.

Waigel calls for cabinet clear-out

Imre Karacs
Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl was forced to make an intervention yesterday from his holiday hideout in Austria, after one of the most senior members of the German government publicly called for a reshuffle.

In a series of newspaper interviews over the weekend, Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, had urged his boss to clear the dead wood out of his cabinet before embarking on next year's general election campaign. Mr Waigel, leader of the Christian Social Union of Bavaria, also made a bid for one of the cabinet seats currently controlled by the Free Democrats, the smallest of the three parties which make up Mr Kohl's government.

Through his spokesman in Bonn, the Chancellor let it be known that such discussions about a reshuffle were "superfluous". But that put-down may not be enough to thwart another round of bickering among the coalition partners.

In a startlingly frank interview with the magazine *Der Spiegel*, Mr Waigel suggested that some of his cabinet colleagues were merely serving time. These, he advised, should be booted out. "If there is a minister or two wanting to quit but would still like to hang on for another year

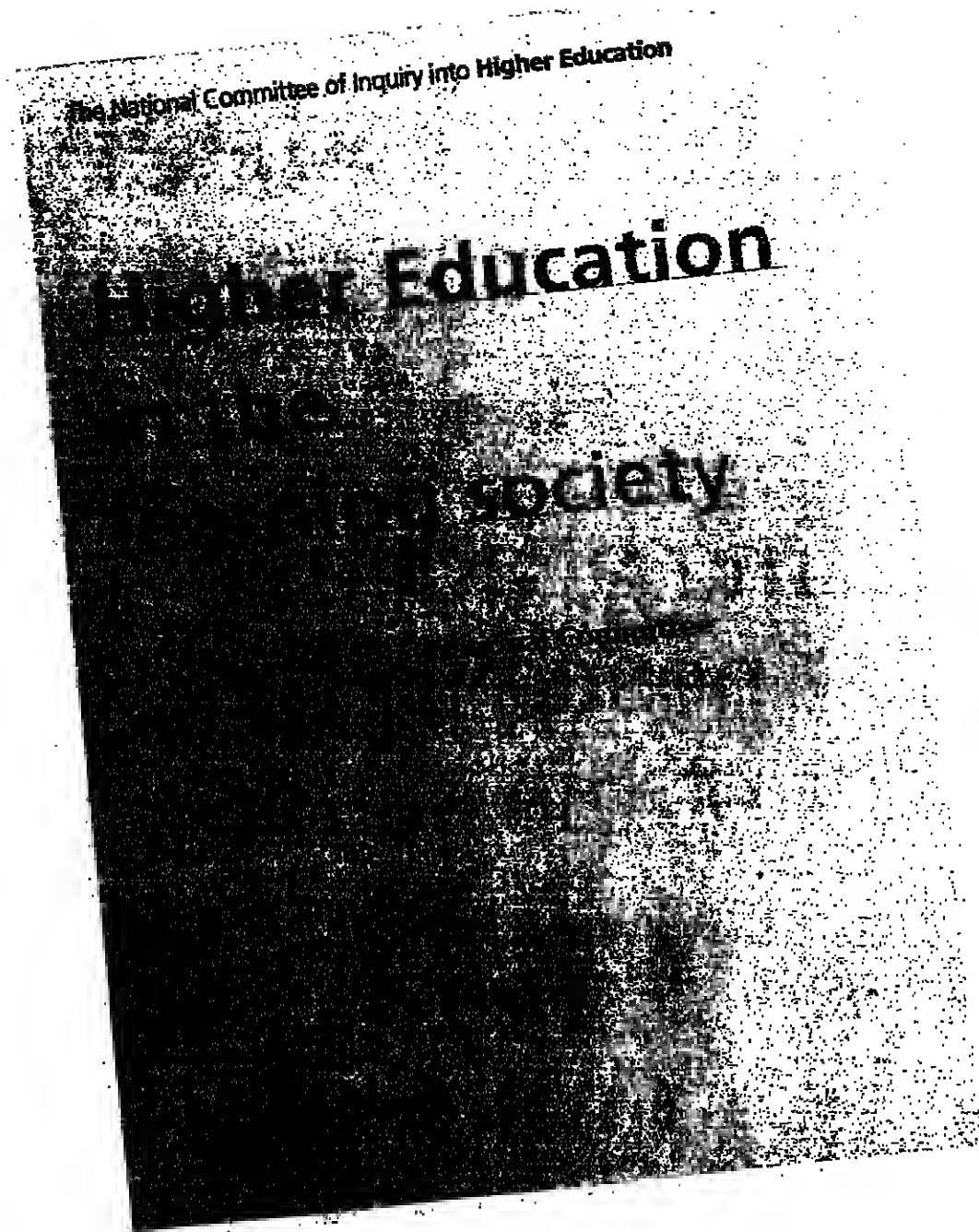
until the elections," Mr Waigel said, "then one should tell him: 'Comrade, it would have been nice, but we must build our new team now'."

Though the Finance Minister refused to name any of the tired faces he had in mind, there is little doubt that Günter Rexrodt, the Economy Minister, would be on top of such list. Mr Rexrodt does not even enjoy the confidence of his own party, the Free Democrats, and is believed to have flirted in the past with the idea of leaving the government.

The Economy Minister's departure would seem to fit in well with Mr Waigel's game plan, namely to swap portfolios with the FDP Klaus Kinkel, the Free Democrat Foreign Minister, who would thus take over the hot potato of Finance, allowing Mr Waigel to fulfil his cherished ambition of straddling the world stage.

This could only happen, however, if the FDP were eased out of the Economics Ministry. Mr Waigel also noted that one minister from his party, Wolfgang Bötsch, will drop out of the government when his fieldwork, the post office, is privatised later this year.

The CDU, he said, will have to be given something else, otherwise it will only have the same number of government seats - three - as the Free Democrat minnows.



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صكرا من الاصل

A new, dignified, job for Peter Mandelson

These are the dog days of August. Parliamentarians have departed to far-off olive groves. News flows as sluggishly as a summer Tuscan brook. Editors and executives lie awake at night worrying about about where the next front page is going to come from. But this year the gods have provided munificently: "Dodi" Fayed and Whatshere for the tabloids; and for us and our relatives, Peter Mandelson, shop-minder-in-chief, FRCP of the spin-doctoring trade and a source very, very close to the Prime Minister. In the past few days Mr Mandelson has provided stories thick and fast: now, rather less comfortably, he is the story. The attempt yesterday by the nominal Deputy Prime Minister to assert himself only ensures more headlines.

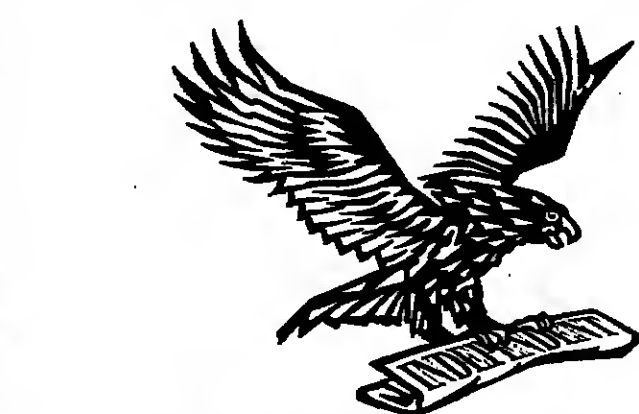
Let us say straightaway that Mr Mandelson is right to complain about media self-obsession. There are two essentials in avoiding "spin" or "manipulation" - acute, brave journalism, plus pluralism in media ownership; the rest is self-regarding waffle. Mr Mandelson had some right on his side, too, in his run-in at Broadcasting House. When a one o'clock radio programme is desperately anxious to fill its allotted time and even more desperate to distinguish itself from the radio programmes that precede and succeed it, it can lose its capacity to make reliable judgements about significance. Mr Mandelson could, it's true, take lessons from John Prescott

about how to do live radio but his impatience was understandable - during its 100 days Labour has inaugurated substantive changes in policy which deserve the closest attention.

For example, while insults were being exchanged in a broadcasting studio in London, Frank Field, the social security minister, was out in deepest England, apparently making policy on the hoof, on a subject - work and welfare - that will be Labour's greatest opportunity and challenge.

Oddly enough Mr Mandelson's charge that his personality and position are irrelevant would be a lot more plausible if he were merely what he says he is - a spokesperson for the Government. He is much more than that and always has been. This minister of information is also author of a book charting his party's future course. Peter Mandelson's opus, *The Blair Revolution*, co-written with Roger Liddle, is more than a pot-boiler, too. It is a considered statement of ideology and party strategy and, when Mr Mandelson delivers himself of his Fabian thoughts later this week, his words will be well worth listening to for their neo-revisionist content.

It so happens that we share much of Mr Mandelson's analysis, especially his enthusiastic espousal of constitutional change. But he has to understand that it is part of the reason why the media buzzes round him like moths round a flame. This man is Tony Blair's Suslov;



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he is clever and ambitious; his deceptively casual talk about standing for the National Executive Committee, let alone a thinly coded application for a cabinet minister's position, speaks about a man who feels he has high potential to fill. The real charge against the personality interviewers he contends is that they missed the story, which is why this summer this arch-strategist seems to be treading water.

In Opposition and during the election campaign, it suited Labour and Peter Mandelson to exaggerate the potency of the Millbank machine and to darken his prince-of-darkness persona. The climate

of Tory fear helped Labour win. But now? It is beginning to look as if Labour is trapped here. The Mandelson story feels as if it will not, cannot, go away. Journalists adore it, for obvious reasons. The Tories like it. For them, Mandelson-as-autocratic-fixer has been a gift when they have had very little else to go on. And all the disgruntled Old Labourites like it, too: it gives them an easy scapegoat.

So how do Tony Blair, and Peter Mandelson himself, get out of this one? Blaming the media will not wash: Mr Mandelson made his political fortune with the media constituted as they are

and he is going to have to live with it. He knows that and is a very shrewd operator. This may explain why he has been publicly angling for a promotion to Cabinet which must, on the face of it, lessen his power. The time is fast coming for that "proper job" Mr Blair denied him on 2 May.

A Labour Cabinet would benefit from Mr Mandelson's membership. But when he is moved into it, he must have a serious task. The highest cabinet jobs - the Treasury, the Foreign Office and John Prescott's super-ministry - are unlikely to be vacant for a very long time. Other obvious jobs, including Culture, Defence or a specific cabinet role on Europe, would be seen by now as a come-down for a man who must, in his heart of hearts, aspire to succeed Mr Blair one day as party leader and Prime Minister. Mr Mandelson seems to want - and certainly could deserve - political success in his own right. He knows that the Rasputins of this world never become Tsar. And the minute one casts around for big political roles that he could fill, one solution becomes obvious.

Despite the May landslide, the political project set out in *The Blair Revolution* is far from accomplished. The party requires further drastic surgery and the paint is barely dry on its first batch of constitutional policies. From which position is he going to be best able to accomplish more - as a minister without portfolio, or as a secretary of state mak-

ing a name on some of the great political reform questions which have hitherto seemed worryingly disjointed? Say there is a November reshuffle. The Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster might well fall vacant - how easy it would be to upgrade the job to cabinet rank while giving it real content, combining responsibility for constitutional change with reformation of the machinery of state. To our ears, Secretary of State for Political Reform sounds rather better - and more dignified - than Minister of Spin.

Winner does not take all

A common reaction to the British Amen's relay team winning silver in Athens was to announce the end of athletic prowess as we have known it. A more reasonable response would have been to say that coming second to an American line-up which was pretty strong was to do very well indeed. For a people who are supposed to be phlegmatic, the British seem to have become terribly volatile about sport. England loses the test, and suddenly Atherton is walking the plank. Barnsley lose their first game in the Premiership and all at once Danny Wilson starts fearing the end of civilisation as Oakwell knows it. Lighten up - somebody has to lose.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The choice we dare not face over drugs

Sir: Steve Boggan writes of "Britain's spiralling descent into drug-fuelled amorality" (8 August). The consumption of drugs does not lead to amorality. It is their illegality that raises their price and makes them attractive to criminal elements, drawing people outside the scope of morality. This is the problem with all prohibition and is simple economics.

We have a choice as a nation. A choice we have been too fearful to consider. The first option is to make the penalties for dealing and possession of illegal drugs so harsh that we impinge upon civil liberties. (Malaysia, for example, imposes the death sentence on dealers.) The second is to make drugs no longer profitable for criminals by legalising them totally. There is no half-way house. Decriminalisation creates more legal grey areas while allowing the gangs to profit.

Neither choice is pleasant or easy, but talk of wars on drugs merely glosses over the fact that criminals are already fighting wars over drugs.

BERKIE CAIRNS
London SW2

Sir: James Humphreys admitted his offence and accepted his punishment. In the article "The cost to society is so great it makes me dizzy" (7 August), he merely casts a wry look at the punishment's ineffectiveness and expense. He makes no claims that, as an educated young man, who was brought up properly, he should be treated any differently from those who are not.

He does claim that society should look at the drugs situation with an open mind and recognise the truth. One million youngsters are still taking ecstasy each week and many more are enjoying marijuana. So the present system is not working.

More than one in four young adults are taking non-addictive drugs for fun. That means your son, your daughter, your nephew, your niece, is either doing it, or has friends who are. Just ask them. Are we now saying that more than one-quarter of this generation are criminals?

It is time we started learning to work with human nature. We should face up to our common frailties. Look at what we did, when we were young, for fun. Look at what we are still doing for fun.

It's no good proscribing all the things we don't like and then hiding behind the net curtains in the belief that they have gone away. The fact that James Humphreys has torn the curtain a little may disturb us, but he reveals, not hides, the ugly truth that we are persecuting, instead of helping, our own children.

MICK HUMPHREYS
Taunton, Somerset

The writer is the father of James Humphreys

Point of crisis for the family

Sir: I fear that your leading article ("Don't panic. 'Family life' is quietly thriving", 7 August) is simply whistling to keep our spirits up.

Of course there are some splendid stepfathers. And of course some lone mothers do a great job. But the question is whether social stability can survive the break-up of 40 per cent of marriages plus the uncounted number of break-ups of



families with unmarried parents.

Most of the teenagers sleeping rough have left home because of abuse of one kind or another by a stepfather. The rise in teenage prostitutes has the same cause. A great number of teenagers are not only unwanted by any employer, but unwelcome by any family. They roam the big city estates with nothing to do and all day to do it, loose cannons of our society.

Forty per cent may not be the critical point. As you point out, we still get by. But, since the downgrading of family obligations is an unprecedented social experiment, no one knows when the critical point will come. All religions and all societies have treated the family as the basic social cement which held them together through war, revolution and every other kind of social instability.

We should do well to reckon that we are near the point of no return and revise some of the legislation of the past 30 years before it is too late.

Sir FRED CATHERWOOD
President, The Evangelical Alliance
London SE11

The power of a black Othello

Sir: David Lister's article "Can it be wrong to 'hick up' for Othello" (7 August) brought to mind a performance I have never forgotten.

I was quite young when I saw Paul Robeson play Othello with Peggy Ashcroft, in her early stardom, as Desdemona. As a frequent visitor to the Old Vic, I had experienced various "old

greats" - John Gielgud (as Romeo), Sybil Thorndike, Ralph Richardson, Alastair Sim - but Paul Robeson in *Othello* exuded enormous emotional power, notably in the scene where he fell to the ground in a paroxysm of jealousy, his huge voice almost gone, yet even his whisper audible throughout the theatre.

EILEEN PEARCE
Horsham, West Sussex

Sir: It is all very well making Shakespeare ethnically correct (Letters, 8 August) but censorship of the text will inevitably follow. How will that American company cope with "The devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon!" in *Macbeth*?

FRITZ SPIEGEL
Liverpool

High cost of burning waste

Sir: The director of the Energy from Waste Association (letter, 9 August) suggests that waste incineration is a form of renewable energy generation. The burning of materials which have been produced making use of oil, gas and coal cannot be so described. Furthermore, far more energy can be saved by recycling paper, plastics and textiles than can be obtained by their incineration.

Coopers & Lybrand's recent report to the EC compared various waste treatment alternatives and found that incineration is more

expensive than alternatives. Incineration will create less employment than recycling, have high transport needs, produce carbon dioxide and have the potential to undermine recycling. Landfill sites will still be needed for incinerator ash.

Germany, a country rather more advanced in recycling than the UK, has seen huge declines in the quantities of domestic waste this decade. This has meant that elaborate new incinerators have become "ruinous white elephants" which are costing taxpayers a fortune to keep open and need to import waste from distant sources.

The London moratorium on new incinerator plant is a long-sighted decision. We hope our own county council will heed it and scrap plans for the two proposed waste incinerators in Devon.

MARTIN HUGHES-JONES
Mid Devon Green Party
Sampford Peverell, Devon

Aricept: waiting for the data

Sir: Your article "The truth about Aricept - a new drug for Alzheimer's" (5 August) is seriously premature in taking so restricted a view of this drug's potential. "The truth" will not be known until we have more experience.

Aricept is currently used only on patients in the comparatively early stages of Alzheimer's disease. The

drug's trial data was based on that patient group, so that is the group for which it is licensed.

That does not necessarily mean - as stated in your article - that it has no effect on more serious cases: nor that "Aricept works only for Alzheimer's", it is not effective for other forms of dementia. There simply isn't any research data available: we don't know the answer either way. It is far too early to rule out categorically further uses for this important development in Alzheimer's treatment.

Your point about funding fears and the patchy availability of the drug across the UK is well made. In Southampton, as in other areas, the use of memory clinics will identify patients likely to benefit from the new therapy and - crucially - monitor their progress over a period of months to ensure that this expensive treatment is concentrated on patients who experience a clear benefit.

We expect patients to stay on Aricept for less time (on average) than was initially predicted on its launch - so the real costs of making it available will be far lower than initially feared. Conclusive evidence that this is the case should reassure reluctant prescribers - and ultimately ensure that this and similar future drug therapies become more widely and evenly available nationwide.

Dr DAVID WILKINSON
Director, Thornhill Research Unit
Southampton Community Health Services NHS Trust
Southampton

And on the seventh day ...

Sir: Lynne Wallis concludes her article against church-going (8 August) by describing her ideal Sunday. This features a long lie-in, a siesta and a stroll in the park. But just who does she think first advocated Sunday as a day of rest?

The Rev NEIL GARDNER
Winchester
Hampshire

Sir: Here was I thinking that the pursuit of truth, maturity, spirituality, community, laughter and love was a pretty exciting way to spend a Sunday morning, when all the time I should have been sleeping, eating and walking the dog.

At least I now have the comfort of knowing that the last 20 years have been merely a fad.

DEREK BURNSIDE
Exeter
Devon

Deadly fumes

Sir: With the publication of evidence linking car exhaust fumes with heart disease (report, 5 August), taken together with the ever-increasing toll of deaths and serious injuries on our roads, can we now expect the introduction of controls on the advertisement and promotion of automobiles and associated products, along the lines applied to the tobacco industry? I hope so.

NORMAN DAVIES
Farnham,
Surrey

Student work plan is unfair

Sir: The Government's latest plan to give concessions to 1997/98 students who take a year off before going to university, provided they do three months' voluntary work, is missing the mark ("Free places plan to stem college rush", 11 August).

A number of degree courses make it conditional for students to complete a year in industry before beginning their course. This will make it impossible for them to complete the minimum period of voluntary work and will, therefore, penalise them.

Engineering is a wealth creator. It enables us all to live life with more ease and comfort. It is essential that these financial barriers are removed to attract the brightest into the profession.

RICHARD APIKE
Director General, Institution of Mechanical Engineers
London SW1

Sir: David Walker argues that the state should not subsidise students to study away from home ("Why university is a journey too far", 11 August).

Fine - provided their neighbourhood university offers a course in every subject of significance. Not all do, and indeed some have deliberately opted to run only a small number of strong departments which can achieve excellence in teaching and research.

As a Colchester boy, I was happy to do a degree in politics, my chosen subject, at nearby Essex University because it had (and has) a superb Department of Government. Had I wished to do Welsh, theology or music, my local campus could not have helped me.

ALAN HAYMAN
Standing Committee of Convocation
Essex University
Colchester, Essex

Sir: Each year, on publication of the A-level results, the front page of every broadsheet pictures jubilant young women laughing and hugging each other. While of course they look beautiful, we've had this each year for about a decade.

As concern grows about the decline in young men's school achievement and motivation, could we, this year, have some photos of young men similarly celebrating? Positive images of young men would serve to raise their apparently low self-esteem, partly caused by the growing success of their female peers and reinforced by annual front-page publicity.

CLARE COOPER
London N11

English invaders

Sir: Grant Green's list of invasions requiring apologies (letter, 11 August) is not quite complete. Ironically, he omits the one that occurred in the fifth and sixth centuries and which many of us regard as the most calamitous of all.

It is a little difficult to determine who should be approached for this apology but rather than trouble Helmut Kohl or the President of Lower Saxony at what is a difficult period for them, I am prepared to accept mine from Mr Green, as I see he claims to speak on behalf of the Queen.

GWYN DAVIES
Woodhouse Eaves,
Leicestershire

analysis

As the nation marks 50 years of independence, Peter Popham considers how it defies the pressures of global culture, sustained by ideas instilled by its former Imperial rulers

I was hurried at the back of the second section of *The Indian Express* last week: a little item to gladden the hearts of all regionalists, anti-globalists, lovers of the culturally distinctive, all enemies of the great god Homogeneity which seems bent on feeding the whole world through a mincer fashioned somewhere between Hollywood and Osaka.

"Bollywood over Hollywood" was the headline. One year ago, Indian film-goers seemed poised to dump their corny, schmaltzy, hump-and-grind Hindi epics, with their wet saris and endless romping song-and-dance routines, and switch en masse to American films — *Independence Day*, *Jurassic Park*, *Batman*. Delhi's first multiplex opened, offering American films to a broadly American ambience.

One year on, the ambience is still sort of American, but the films are Hindi. Except for the occasional blockbuster, the foreign films have failed to put bums on seats. "English cinema," the *Express* article concluded, "has still not outgrown infant status."

India, it appears, is not going to be a pushover. Writing in a special issue of *The New Yorker* on India in June, Jonathan Foreman remarked on "how well Indian popular culture has resisted American influence at a time when almost everywhere else in Asia Hollywood movies have won huge audiences".

But this Indian resistance to

foreign takeover is not restricted to the popular (read plebeian, unsophisticated) culture of Bollywood. Other cultural forms have put up equally stout defences: take music, dance, food, dress. India is a big, distinctive and, in all its variety, increasingly self-confident country, and it knows what it likes, which is principally things Indian.

Which brings one to the conundrum that being the case, where and how does the influence of British culture fit in?

Part of the answer is obvious. As the language of the Empire which ruled India for more than 200 years, English found

an important public role, made more important by the multitude of tongues in the subcontinent. The public function of English is everywhere. On Delhi's roads, the rear ends of the autorickshaws are inscribed "Horn please — keep distance". English is appropriate because anyone who can read anything can read that. The television set blaring out Hindi films in the airport arrivals hall is labelled "entertainment". That bit of road that is permanently dug up has a sign in English only, "Inconvenience regretted". Every shop with even the slightest claim to respectability has its sign in English. And so on.

There is no mystery here. Any army of occupation leaves behind a residue of its presence in official or pseudo-official signage, the semiotic by-products of power; and the longer the army stays, the bigger the pile of leavings will be, unless very single-mindedly destroyed.

New Delhi itself, and the earlier British developments in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and elsewhere, are similarly easy to grasp. They are imperial impositions, pure and simple. One might feel baffled as to why the British wanted to inscribe the incredible monument that is New Delhi, at the gateway to the Ganga Plains, and one might wonder what amazing hubristic delusion led them to plant here this magnificent construct, Albert Speer's Berlin meets Milton Keynes, thousands of miles from home. But that is a British conundrum, not an Indian one. It was an exclusively British project. "It would only be possible... under a despotism," wrote Herbert Baker, one of New Delhi's architects. "Hurrah for despotism!" Independent India merely, and very sensibly, refrained from demolishing it, and put it to good use.

So far so superficial, so despotist. But the entwinement

of Britain and British culture with India is far closer and more knotted and intestinal than this. You discover this as soon as you confront your first Indian omelette-stand, and buy your first cloth of Indian broadsheets.

English language newspapers are to be found all over Asia. Most are extremely bad. Some are hilariously so, many merely dreary and incomplete assemblages of out-of-date wire reports, lumped with dreivelling local contributions. The exceptional good ones — the *South China Morning Post* in Hong Kong, for example, the *Bangkok Post*, the *Straits Times* in Singapore — are colonial papers *par excellence*, often still edited or partially staffed by expatriates.

India's newspapers are different. No neo-Indians are involved in their production. Yet they are never worse than mediocre. Some, such as *The Hindu*, look old-fashioned next to ours, but, like our papers used to be, they are densely informative. One notices

mistakes, one starts counting the clichés, but that misses the point. The point is that these papers are not intended, even incidentally, for foreigners, either resident or passing through. Rather it is through these newspapers, as intensely British as they are also intensely Indian, that India carries on its national conversation.

This is the intimate and unique way in which British culture is entwined with Indian. The English language and British people

were in some extraordinary way present and instrumental at the genesis of India's modern consciousness of itself. The English language and British people were midwives at this event. When British old-timers get nostalgic about India and the Empire, we tend to think they must be terrible quasi-fascist types, reveling in memories of arbitrary power. But what they are probably homesick for is the emotive inherent in this intimacy between two such drastically different cultures.

In his book *India: A Million*

Mutines Now, VS Naipaul writes about one of these extraordinary midwife figures from the 18th century, the great oriental linguist Sir William Jones, who went out to India to become a judge in the Bengal Supreme Court in Calcutta. In the process he made his fortune, always in those days an important reason for heading out east. But for no money at all he also hurried himself in ancient texts in Sanskrit and other Indian languages, translating them into English, removing them thereby from the grip of the Brahmins who had guarded them jealously, and helping to return them to the Indian people as a whole.

Jones, Naipaul writes, "brought many of the attitudes of the 18th century enlightenment to India. In the cultural ruins of much-conquered India he saw himself like a man of the Renaissance in the ruins of the classical world... He, and people like him, gave to Indians the first ideas they had of the antiquity and value of their civilisation. Those ideas gave strength to the nationalist movement more than 100 years later... And so some remarkable seeds were planted. But the soil, too, needed to be fertile: India needed to be receptive to

the works, ideas and language of foreigners, as today it seems unresponsive to the far more flagrant offerings of Hollywood. And in the phenomenon known as the Bengal Renaissance of the 19th century, it showed that it did possess this receptiveness.

Foreign rule was resented and opposed, but not sullenly; rather in a spirit of earnest self-examination and self-improvement. Nirad Chaudhuri, last surviving son of the Bengal Renaissance, listed in his book, *The Intellectual in India*, the questions Indian intellectuals began to seek answers to.

(1) What were the shortcomings of their own institutions and outlooks and how were they to be removed?

(2) How was national self-respect and confidence to be revived?

(3) In what manner were the incoming and irresistible elements of western culture to be absorbed and combined with their own traditions?

(4) What attitude was to be adopted towards British rule and since in the ultimate analysis the only aim could be political independence how was it to be secured?

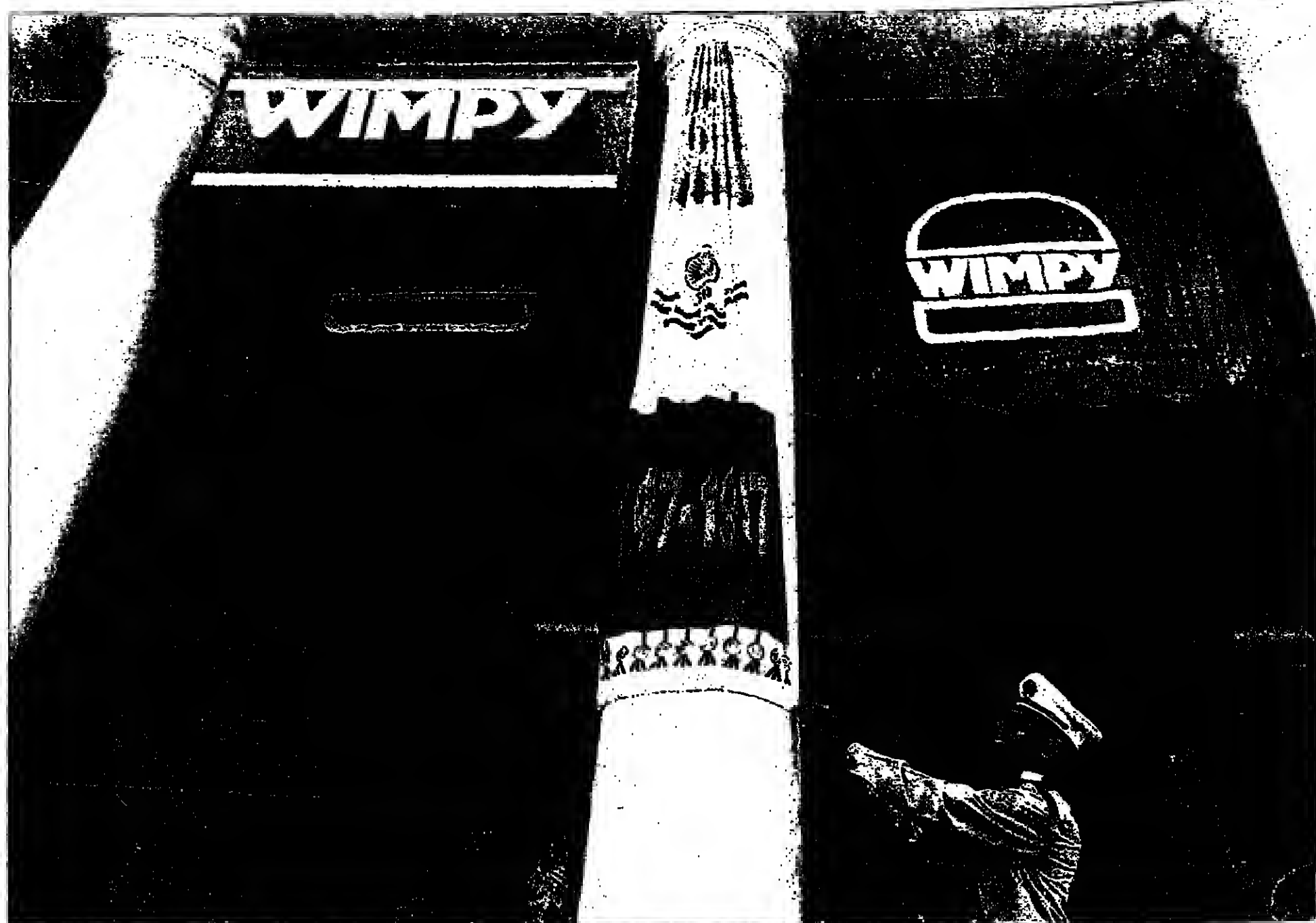
Thus from early in the history of Britain's entwinement with India, two key elements were present. There was the ardent desire to learn what useful and important lessons the foreigner had to teach; but there was also the clear and guiding imperative that the final object of the exercise was not to ape him, but to get him off one's back.

All cultures imitate their own pasts, with good or evil consequences that can seem entirely accidental. William Jones in India saw himself as playing the role of a renaissance man among the ruins of Athens or Rome, and with the same sort of mission, salvaging what was beautiful and fine from the wreckage. And the intellectuals of Bengal approached the learning of the West through the medium of English with the same mixture of curiosity and pride with which their ancestors had approached the learning and art of the Mughals and all the subcontinent's other invaders before them.

A century or so later, the result was Mahatma Gandhi, a "half-Indo gent" as the English described him, proclaiming with every stitch of his *khadi* (homespun cloth) his essential Indianness, yet also declaring that Ruskin's book *Unto This Last*, which he had read in South Africa, had been impossible to put down and had worked an instantaneous transformation in his life. And Jawaharlal Nehru, fiercely Indian, thoroughly Harrovian, declaring 50 years ago (this Friday): "Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge... A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new... and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance."

So saying, the soul of India did find utterance — in English.

Tomorrow Peter Popham considers India's influence on Britain.



Signs of the times: outside the fast-food outlet, a banner proclaims half a century of independence

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

The pride of India is written in English

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The right bloke is out there — somewhere

Now here is a paradox. According to most intelligent young professional women that I meet, there are very few eligible men in their late 20s and early 30s. They just don't exist, and — no — a quick consolatory shag with you after the office party isn't going to make it any better, thanks.

But, at the same time as the ladies make this sad moan, dating agencies are cluttered up with the unrequited applications of single men in precisely this age range; men who have turned — in desperation — to outside intervention to achieve for them what rounds of parties, pubbing, clubbing and thrusting flowers at young ladies on the tube have failed to accomplish.

As reported by my (female) colleagues on our Sunday sister paper this week, the apparent contradiction may be explained by analysing what women mean by the word "eligible". It does not, one gathers, simply mean physically "available", as in "I am eligible to move in with you tonight, expect my unencumbered furniture at

five". This, it has to be said, is the male idea of eligibility, and essentially revolves around whether or not you are actually married or living with someone else at the time. Rather — for a woman — the word connotes suitability, qualification if you like, for the role of husband or lover of a particular woman. And as with a PhD or some other advance diploma, it requires quite a lot of intrinsic quality, as well as a fair bit of hard work, to reach the required standard.

Listen, for instance, to Jayne, 36, quoted in the same article. "The men you meet these days are either so desperate that they want to move in after the first date, or they are bastards," she opines. "I haven't found anyone who is emotionally mature — who can communicate on the same level as me." Well of course you haven't Jayne, they're men, and men do reach the "same level" of emotional maturity as women have attained, but only about 15 to 20 years later. That is why you may occasionally see a 40-year-old man on the bus — his temples greying — slap his forehead with enlightenment



David Aaronovitch

as a phrase used by a long lost girlfriend makes sudden sense. If it's emotional maturity you're after, gal, spend more time with grandma.

In the same edition of the same newspaper, the letters page carried this sad missive from Karl in Cheshunt. Perplexed by the suggestion that there were too few chaps around, Karl (his own experience clearly in mind) wrote that "the problem is not that there are not enough eligible men, but that many women are way too choosy. If

women thought less about arbitrary targets such as age, height, looks, build, job and car and spent more time on the qualities of the person behind it all, they might actually meet someone suitable."

My heart goes out to Karl. In Jayne's terms he is clearly more "desperate" than "bastard". As far as he can tell, the problem is nothing to do with the emotional maturity gap, but rather the other more tangible elements of attraction. These picky women seem to want guys over 6ft tall, under 13st, with buns of steel, called recently to the bar and driving a convertible Maserati. And, if they find a man like this, they expect him to be anything other than infantile.

The columnist Lynda Lee-Potter — whom I read whenever I want to understand what's wrong with British women — reveals all in her comments about Di and Dodi (incidentally, what might a child of such a phonetically basic union be named? Dodi? Didodi? Didodo? J. Any road, excusing his rather controversial family circle, Ms Lee-Potter comments

that "the more important thing, surely, is that Dodi seems to be kind, in love and seriously rich".

Oh surely. Test one: is he kind? Tick. Test two: is he in love? Tick. Test three: is he seriously rich? Tick. If he were simply kind and rich, that wouldn't do. Nor would being in love and being rich. And neither — Karl — would being kind and in love. At which point we may be coming closer to the truth. After all, our grandparents and parents endured two world wars in which millions of young men died, and still managed to propagate the species. How could they pull off this trick, when we — with all our advantages — find it so hard?

Part of it is due to settling down later, I suppose. You can always kid yourself that a 20-year-old man will become more mature, but 10 years on it is obvious that he won't be changing. But I also wonder whether many aren't seduced by the recently released figures that, today, one in 500 men is a millionaire. Which only leaves 499 who seriously aren't.

Miles Kingston is on holiday

سكرا من الاصل

Thumbscrews won't work on Bloody Tam

A sticky moment on the factory floor

A JOURNEY AROUND THE WHOLE ISLAND OF GREAT BRITAIN



SHOCKING NEWS

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Clarence Kelley

Clarence Kelley had the unenviable task of following J. Edgar Hoover as permanent director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Hoover had not only been the FBI's first director, but had also held the post for 49 years when he died in May 1972. Obsessed with the largely illusory threat of domestic Communism in the United States, Hoover had nevertheless established the FBI as a modern security agency and become a legend. More difficult from his successor's point of view, Hoover had left cohorts of uncritical admirers on the FBI staff. Kelley would have to win over these men to have any chance of making a success of his new job.

Equally difficult, Kelley was appointed at the worst possible time. The collapse of President Richard Nixon's notorious Watergate cover-up in 1973-74 threw harsh and revealing light on years of abuse of power by the US intelligence community. Both the FBI and, in some ways more seriously, the Central Intelligence Agency, in charge of foreign security, were gravely compromised.

Finally, the timing and cir-

cumstances of Kelley's appointment made his efforts to end these abuses and reform the FBI even harder. L. Patrick Gray III, who had been made acting director on Hoover's death, was forced to resign in 1973 when it emerged he had destroyed sensitive documents relating to the Watergate conspiracy.

Eventually Nixon's attorney general John Mitchell was jailed, the CIA director Richard Helms brought under suspicion and the president himself forced into the unprecedented step of resigning - all because of the ramifications of what Nixon's press secretary had at first tried to dismiss as "a third-rate burglary".

Clarence Kelley, nominated by Nixon over 26 other candidates, had plenty of experience of both third-rate and first-rate burglaries, and indeed crime and political corruption of every kind. Originally an FBI man, he had left in 1961 to become chief of police in his home town, Kansas City, Missouri, one of the most notoriously corrupt cities in America.

When Kelley was growing up there in the 1920s and 1930s, Missouri was still run by the po-



Kelley: redefining the FBI's role

litical machine controlled by the Pendergast family since the 1870s. But Kelley, the son of an electrical worker, had an honest, hardworking upbringing in the best American tradition. He was throughout his life an active Christian with the Disciples of Christ and prominent in charity work. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1936, and took a law degree from Kansas City Law School in 1940.

Such was his idealism, that a speech by the head of the Kansas City FBI office at his graduation ceremony inspired

him to join the Bureau, which he did in the following year.

During the next 20 years he served in ten cities across the United States, apart from a brief stint between 1943 and 1946 when he was drafted into the US Navy. On demobilisation, he briefly worked at the FBI Academy in Virginia, where the dogged, incorruptible traditions of the bureau were first instilled. But his time spent running FBI offices in Birmingham, Alabama, and Memphis, Tennessee in the 1950s, when the civil rights movement was starting its epic progress, was more significant. J. Edgar Hoover, who regarded the whole civil rights campaign as part of the international Communist conspiracy, did nothing to encourage it. Indeed, he despised its leader, Martin Luther King, and illegally tapped his phone, along with those of hundreds of other liberal activists.

Though Kelley may not have shared his boss's paranoia, he had the same racial prejudices of most white Americans of his generation. This became more apparent when he left the Bureau in 1961 to become chief of police in Kansas City. Corrup-

tion, as usual, was rife, with his immediate predecessor and four department heads facing indictment for dishonesty.

More serious, in a city where a fifth of the population was African-American, only five per cent of police officers were black. It was hard for a man of Kelley's background and experience in the lily-white FBI to balance the aspirations of the city's blacks against the bigoted fears of the white working class from where the comparatively poorly-paid policemen came.

Civil rights activities, which increased in the 1960s, exploded in April 1968 when King was assassinated. Angry, grief-stricken demonstrators in Kansas City, mostly women and children, were dispersed by batons and tear gas. This led to real rioting, during which six unarmed blacks were killed. Kelley refused to apologise and no one was brought to book. Though the proportion of black police officers doubled during his 12 years as chief, and crime was cut by a quarter, his reputation was permanently stained by this incident.

Back at the FBI, Kelley had to weather the storm of protest stirred up by the Watergate revelations, and not only hold the Bureau together but try to transform it into something more appropriate to changed times. The kind of managerial and technical reforms he had accomplished at the Kansas City police department, which Hoover in old age had prevented at the FBI, were repeated to make the Bureau into a more efficient investigative organisation.

Computers, resisted for years because of Hoover's fixation with files, were introduced. Fear of what Hoover's famous files might contain had stopped successive presidents from replacing him, and Congress from criticising him. Now it was revealed that they had consisted mostly of newspaper clippings. Recruiting was also transformed. Agents, who until the 1970s had been almost entirely white men, began increasingly to include blacks, Hispanics and women.

But the real problem remained redefining the role of the FBI and keeping it under proper public control. At his confirmation hearings Kelley had helped win endorsement by

promising to provide Congress with itemised FBI financial accounts - something Hoover would have rejected with contempt.

Yet political rather than financial accountability was what really mattered, and here Kelley had only limited success. Though he assured Congress that illegal FBI burglaries had ceased in 1966, he later had to admit they had continued right up to 1973. In 1976 he ordered that all FBI open operations, more than 21,000, be reviewed and halted unless they showed real evidence of crime or threat to national security.

For despite Hoover's legacy, there were enough agents within the Bureau to back reform, and on appointment Kelley had been welcomed as an FBI man and not some outsider. Moreover, some of the early criticism about the way the intelligence services were operating had come covertly from within the CIA and FBI, or openly from former officers.

But this opportunity was largely squandered. Though the ghost of internal Communism was finally exorcised, and attention focused on real dan-

gers like organised crime, and white-collar crime, in the wake of Watergate the FBI had for the first time become a political football.

This finally brought Clarence Kelley down. Critics pointed to the fact that staff at FBI headquarters had grown from 475, when he took over, to more than 900 by 1977. Worse, when it was discovered that Kelley, like Hoover, had used FBI staff to improve his home, Jimmy Carter, campaigning for president in 1976, made an issue of it.

Kelley repaid the trivial sum of less than \$400. But President Carter promised not to reappoint him at the end of his term. Rather than face this, Kelley retired in 1978 and Carter appointed Judge William H. Webster in his place.

Patrick Renshaw

Clarence Marion Kelley, police officer: born Kansas City, Missouri 24 October 1911; Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation 1973-78; married 1940 Ruby Pickett (died 1975); one son, one daughter; 1976 Shirley Ann Dyckes; died Kansas City 5 August 1997.

Elisabeth Höngen

Elisabeth Höngen, the German mezzo-soprano, was a handsome woman with a beautiful, firmly projected voice; but, above all, she was a magnificent singing actress. Karl Böhm, the conductor with whom she worked in Dresden and Vienna, called her "the greatest tragedienne in the world".

When Böhm left Dresden for Vienna in 1942, he engaged Höngen for the Vienna State Opera, where she remained a member of the company for nearly 30 years. She sang in many of the major opera houses of Europe and America, including La Scala, Covent Garden, the Paris Opéra, the Colon, Buenos Aires, and the Metropolitan, usually in operas by Mozart, Wagner or Richard Strauss, but in Austria and Germany she also took on roles such as Carmen, Lady Macbeth, Princess Eboli in *Don Carlos* and Annieris in *Aida*.

Höngen was born in Gevelsberg, Westphalia, in 1906. At university in Berlin she studied German Language and Literature, as well as the violin, musicology and singing at the Berlin Hochschule für Musik. Her voice professor was Hermann Weissenborn. She made her operatic debut in 1933 at Wuppertal, then in 1935 she moved to Düsseldorf and in 1940 to the Dresden State Opera. There she came under the influence of Karl Böhm, the Music Director. Under his hat she sang Klytemnestra in *Elektra* and Herodias in *Salome*, roles in which she later became world-famous; she took part in Monteverdi's *Orfeo* in the performing version made by Carl Orff; and sang in the premiere of *Die Zauberflöte* (1942), an

opera by Heinrich Sutermeister based on *The Tempest*.

Höngen first appeared in Vienna as Ortrud in *Lohengrin* in 1942 and the following year became a member of the company. She sang Lady Macbeth during the "Verdi Week" of 1943 (Paul Schoeffler and Hans Hotter alternated as Macbeth), and a few weeks later could be heard as Carmen, or Marcellina in *Le nozze di Figaro*, or in one of her Wagner roles.

She first visited La Scala in 1943, singing Klytemnestra, and returned in 1949/50 for Fricka in *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre*, and Waltraute in *Götterdämmerung*. In 1947 she came to Covent Garden with the VSO company, and sang Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Marcellina and Herodias. She did not return to Covent Garden until 1960, when she gave an unforgettable performance of Klytemnestra.

At the Salzburg Festival, Höngen appeared as Gluck's Orpheus and Mozart's Marcellina (1948), Clairon in Strauss's *Capriccio* (1949), the tragic heroine of Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* (1950) and as Bebbert the maid in the world premiere of Helmut Erbse's *Julietta* (1959), an opera based on Kleist's story "Die Marquise von O...". She took part in the first post-war Bayreuth Festival in 1951, singing Fricka and Waltraute. The following year she made her Metropolitan debut in New York as Herodias, and also sang Klytemnestra and Waltraute. Visiting the Paris Opéra with the VSO in 1953, she sang not only Klytemnestra, but the Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* as well. Meanwhile, in Vienna Höngen was adding to her repertoire

ry: she sang Baba the Turk in *The Rake's Progress* (she was a very fine comedian), the Countess in Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades* and, in 1955, the Nurse in Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, as part of the celebrations for the opening of the rebuilt State Opera. Conducted by Karl Böhm and magnificently cast, this performance was one of the great operatic experiences of my life; Höngen's malevolent Nurse contributed no small share to the general effect, as the recording made shortly afterwards bears witness.

Her other new roles in Vienna included Mme de Croissy, the Old Priestess in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*; Genevieve in Pelléas et Mélisande (which she also sang at La Scala); Marthe in *Faust*, another excellent comic performance; and Julie in Gottfried von Einem's *Sansone Tod*. She continued to sing Klytemnestra and Herodias, in Frankfurt, Geneva, Monte Carlo, Strasbourg and Berlin.

Towards the end of the Sixties she played character parts with her customary dramatic skill: Grandmother Bura in *Jenufa*, Mary in *Der fliegende Holländer*, Ludmila in *The Bartered Bride* and the Fortune-teller in *Arabella*. She retired from the stage in 1971, having taught at the Vienna Academy of Music since 1957.

She recorded all her great roles: Lady Macbeth (live from Vienna), Marcellina, Fricka, Herodias, Klytemnestra and, best of all, the Nurse.

Elizabeth Forbes

Elisabeth Höngen, opera singer: born Gevelsberg, Westphalia 7 December 1906; died Vienna 7 August 1997.



The greatest tragedienne in the world: Höngen, right (as Klytemnestra), with Gerda Lammers (Elektra), rehearsing Elektra at Covent Garden, 1980. Photograph: Hulton Getty

Robert Spencer

Robert Spencer was a leading figure in the early music field, equally accomplished as a singer, lutenist, guitarist, musicologist and teacher. This is the more remarkable since he only started his musical education at the age of 25, when he abandoned his job as a librarian.

Spencer's earliest memories were of his mother playing the piano, but even as a very small child he had been interested in singing, and as a schoolboy he was always an enthusiastic member of chorals groups. When he was 17 his father gave him a guitar and, although he never had a lesson, he managed to make a recognisable sound. In 1955 he went to a recital of poetry interspersed with lute solos by Julian Bream at the old L-shaped Purcell Room, in London, and was enchanted. That same year he attended the Haslemere Festival for the first time - cycling all the way from Woodford Green - and heard the German lutenist Walter Gerwig play in several of the programmes. At a party following one of the concerts he met Gerwig, who gave him some initial instruction. So, be-



Spencer: 'a bit of a nerve'

tween Bream and Gerwig, Spencer was determined to learn to play the lute as well. The next step was to attend the Dartington Summer School, where Bream was playing and teaching. Spencer managed a lesson or two with Bream but gained the most information by taking some 30 photographs of Bream's performance in detail. Armed with the results, he studied all the different hand positions and taught himself to play. Since leaving school Spencer had worked at his local library and by the age of 25 had qual-

ified as a chartered librarian. But he found he was clock-watching and thinking about music all the time. So he consulted Thurston Dart, then Professor of Music at Jesus College, Cambridge, as to how he could get a scholarship to have some musical training. He once explained to me: "It was a bit of a nerve to approach someone like Dart, but I knew a scholarship was the only option because I wasn't good enough for one of the colleges, and in any case had no money for board and lodging, even if they gave me tuition free." Dart recommended him for a scholarship to the Dartington Music School where he stayed for three years with tuition, board and lodging all free.

Before going to Dartington, Spencer had had some singing lessons with Fabian Smith and it was then that he became interested in 11th-century English song. At one of Smith's students' concerts he met the actress/singer Jill Nott-Bower and they formed a musical partnership. It did not take these enterprising young people long to realise that their duo had profession-

al potential. They knew that music clubs are invariably short of money and always on the lookout for some unusual presentation, especially if it does not involve a piano. So they devised recitals that included Elizabethan songs with lute, Purcell songs with theorbo, Italian songs with chitarra and Spanish and English songs with guitar. They gave their first full evening programme in 1958 and later expanded their programmes - often dressed in period costume - to include readings from Shakespeare and Pepys's *Diary*. A few weeks later they started a similar class at the Royal College of Music and taught at numerous conservatories and summer schools both in the UK and abroad. He was regarded as a most sensitive and perceptive teacher. "These are really classes in communication," he said, "as to how you get the message across to the audience. It's no use telling a student, 'Do as I do.' Their interpretation has to stem from their own minds."

Apart from all his performing and teaching activities, Spencer was a founder member of the Bream Consort. He accompanied the legendary counter-tenor Alfred Deller on many tours abroad and was a member of the Deller Consort from 1974 to 1979. More recently he toured Europe and Canada with James Bowman. He also once accompanied Dame Janet Baker for some songs with lute in a recording for EMI. From 1963, he performed regularly at the Haslemere Festival.

Spencer taught at the Royal Academy of Music in London for 23 years. He went there originally to teach lute and then took a class in English song. He later started a similar class at the Royal College of Music and taught at numerous conservatories and summer schools both in the UK and abroad. He was regarded as a most sensitive and perceptive teacher. "These are really classes in communication," he said, "as to how you get the message across to the audience. It's no use telling a student, 'Do as I do.' Their interpretation has to stem from their own minds."

Spencer's musicological researches are equally impressive and lack no respect from the pundits. He contributed numerous articles on a variety of subjects from rediscovered manuscripts to historical evidence gained from paintings. He also published several facsimiles and editions concerning the lute and guitar. Bob Spencer was possessed of a warm and generous nature which endeared him to his many friends and students alike. He was always available to help with a query, often drawing instantly from the veritable mine of information lodged in his head. He was a few weeks ago, when he knew he was dying of cancer, he told me that he was happy because he had had a wonderful life in music, a wonderful family, wonderful friends - and no regrets.

Margaret Campbell

Robert Allen Spencer, singer, lutenist, guitarist, musicologist and teacher: born Ilford, Essex 9 May 1932; married 1960 Jill Nott-Bower (two sons); died Woodford Green 8 August 1997.

Jack Hinton VC

Victoria Cross winners are a rare breed. The New Zealander Jack Hinton was a shy and modest man who shunned the limelight, maintaining that it was his wartime mates who should receive the accolades. Gentle, dignified, and intelligent, he commanded respect wherever he went. There was an air of humility about him, a sense of honesty and forthrightness, which disarmed people and endeared him to them. He is referred to in military history as "the defiant hero" - a good man, who like so many of his generation, was not prepared to sit idly by when faced with evil.

Hinton was one of the first to enlist when the Second World War broke out. He joined New Zealand's 20 Battalion, the Canterbury Regiment, and was posted to Egypt and later Greece.

In April 1941 the war in Europe was some 19 months old. The New Zealanders had been in Greece for six weeks as reinforcements to help the Greek nation rout the Germans from their beloved country. However Greek resistance had crumbled swiftly as the Germans occupied Greece, entering on 6 April, and the retreat and evacuation of Allied troops had to be done as quickly as possible. By late April the Germans had captured all the evacuation beaches and ports except Kalamata.

It was at Kalamata that the New Zealand troops waited for the evacuation ships - part of a force of some 8,000 men. The area was under constant air attack from the Luftwaffe's JU87 dive-bombers and Messerschmitt fighters. On the evening of 28 April the enemy had gained a solid foothold in the town of Kalamata, and the main road through the town was blocked by the Germans. German infantry, self-propelled guns and armoured cars raced for the quay to cut off all avenues of retreat.

Defeat seemed inevitable, but when the order to surrender was given, Sergeant Jack Hinton shouted: "To hell with this talk of surrender - who will fight with me?" Armed with only a .303 rifle with fixed bayonet and a pocketful of hand grenades, and accompanied by a small party of men from 20 Battalion, he ran down the street, smashing open the doors of houses with his boot, throwing grenades, and bayoneting the Germans inside.



Hinton: 'the defiant hero' Photograph: Hulton Getty

Without a thought for his own safety, and with machine-gun fire and heavy mortar bombs exploding all around him, Hinton led his small band of men on to the waterfront which was heavily defended by big guns. He ran to within several metres of the nearest gun. The gun fired, just missing him. With every ounce of strength in his weary body, he hurled two grenades, one after the other, at the gun. He put his hand in his pocket and drew another grenade. It was his last. As he threw it he was severely wounded in the stomach by a German Spandau, and was captured.

Hinton's heroic actions had an inspiring effect on the troops waiting in the olive groves for the destroyers, cruisers, and merchant ships to take them to safety. By the end of the morning the Germans had virtually been driven out of Kalamata, and the New Zealanders had taken more than 150 prisoners.

However, the Germans, regrouping, forced their way back into the town, and, using their superiority in numbers, armour and artillery, inflicted heavy casualties. The following day, the local army commander, Brigadier Parrington, to avoid needless loss of life, surrendered to the Germans.

The gallant counter-attack which Hinton led with such vigour and skill, rightly earned for him the highest award for valour - the Victoria Cross. As Sir Geoffrey Cox, who himself fought in Greece, said: "Jack Hinton was a product of the times in which he lived, the New Zealand of the 1920s and 1930s, which shaped him, and which produced the soldier, who, given only one chance to fight, did so with consummate daring."

John Daniel Hinton, "J.D.", to his friends, was born in 1909 at Colac Bay in Southland, at the bottom of the South Island in New Zealand. He was always tough. He had to be. He had left home at the age of 12 and survived for a time on his earnings as a galley hand on board an Antarctic whaling ship. He later became an errand boy and swagman during the Great Depression. Although his early life was one of extreme hardship, it was also full of adventure. By the time war broke out in September 1939 he was a foreman with the Public Works on the West Coast of the South Island.

When he returned to New Zealand after four and a half long years as a prisoner-of-war he became a publican, managing hotels throughout New Zealand. He retired in Christchurch in 1980.

As the representative of a generation which displayed courage and resolution, Jack Hinton received full military honours at a state funeral in Christchurch.

Gabrielle McDonald

John Daniel Hinton, soldier and publican: born Colac Bay, New Zealand 17 September 1909; VC 1941; twice married; died Christchurch, New Zealand 28 June 1997.

DEATHS

BARRY: Madeleine Bristed, MBE, aged 78, daughter of the late Ian Barry and Mrs Phyllis Barry, on 6 August 1997 at Charing Cross Hospital, Funeral Service (Requiem Mass) at St Marylebone Parish Church, Marylebone Road, London NW1, on Wednesday 13 August 1997 at 11pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Friends of St Marylebone Church, c/o F.W. Paine, 61 Grayhound Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8NH.

GILBRIDE: Geoffrey David, aged 66 years, peacefully at home in Beverley. Beloved husband and father. All enquiries to Frank Stephenson & Son (Beverley), telephone 01482 861367.

LEAK: Muriel Marjorie. On 9 August 1997 in Jersey. Widow of H. J. Leak.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

the engineer and hi-fi devotee. Her long and fruitful life, devoted to her family and many friends, will be celebrated at the Parish Church of St. Beude, Jersey, on Friday 15 August at 2.30. Flowers welcome and/or donations to Jersey Hospice Care. Enquiries to Pitcher & Le Queune. 01534 33330.

For GAZETTE, please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax 0171-293 2010.

Birthdays

Mr Roger Abel, chairman, Conoco UK, 54; Miss Elizabeth Appleby QC, 55; Mr Michael Brunson, television reporter and newscaster, 57; Mr Kenneth Collins, MEP, 58; Mr Gordon Duggan, High Commissioner to Singapore, 60; Admiral Sir Kenneth Eaton, former Controller of the Navy, 63; Mr George Hamilton, actor, 58; Air Marshal Sir Maurice Heath, 88; General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, former President, Royal British Legion, 76; Sir Anthony Joffile, former Lord Mayor of London, 59; Mr Mark Knopfler, singer and rock guitarist, 48; Mr Norris McWhirter, a founder of the Guinness Book of Records, 72; Sir Robin

Nicholson, metallurgist, 63; Lord Renton of Mount Harry QC, former government minister, 89; Mr Pete Sampras, tennis player, 26; Mr Peter West, sports commentator, 77; Mr Tony Wright MP, 43; Professor Graham Zelik, Principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, 49.

Anniversaries

BIRTH: Martin Gerbert (von Hornau), prince-abbot and music historian, 1720; Rowland Hill, preacher, 1744; Thomas Bewick, wood engraver, artist and naturalist, 1753; George IV, King, 1762; Robert Southey, poet, 1764; Francis Horner, politician, 1778; Sir Frederick Arthur

Gore Ouseley, composer, 1825; Dr Hely Hutchinson Almond, educationist, 1832; Abbot Handerson Thayer, painter and naturalist, 1849; Jean Louis Niccolò, composer, 1853; Sir Alfred Gilbert, sculptor and goldsmith, 1854; Jacinto Benavente y Martinez, playwright, 1866; Mary Roberts Rinehart, novelist and playwright, 1876; Marguerite "John" Raddcliffe-Hall, author, 1880; Cecil Blount De Mille, film producer and director, 1881; Frank Arthur Swinerton, novelist, 1884; Erwin Schrödinger, physicist, 1887; Cyril Edwin Mitchinson Joad, philosopher, 1891; Deatrice Philip VI, King of France, 1350; Pope Sixtus IV, 1484; Giovanni Gabrieli, composer, 1612; Pope In-

nocent XI, 1689; Nahum Tate, playwright, 1715; Robert Stewart, second Marquess of Londonderry and Viscount Castlereagh, statesman, committed suicide 1822; William Blake, poet and painter, 1827; George Stephenson, locomotive engineer, 1812; William Daniel Conynbears, geologist, 1857; Sir William Jackson Hooker, botanist, 1865; James Drummond, historical painter, 1877; Dr George Currie, philologist, 1888; James Russell Lowell, poet, critic and diplomat, 1891; John Philip Holland, designer of the submarine, 1914; Arthur Griffith, Irish nationalist and President of Sinn Féin, 1922; Leos Janacek, composer, 1928; Thomas Mann, novelist, 1955; Ian Lancas-

ter Fleming, novelist, creator of "James Bond", 1964; Thomas Edward Driberg, Baron Bradwell, journalist and politician, 1976; Henry Fonda, actor, 1982. On this day: the Crusaders were victorious at the Battle of Ascalon, 1099; the Duke of Wellington's troops entered Madrid, 1812; in a contest, the schooner America beat the British yacht Aurora, thus giving rise later to the "America's Cup", 1851; during the Second World War, the "pipe line under the ocean" (Pluto) began operating beneath the English Channel, 1944. Today is the Feast Day of St Euphrosia, St Lambert, archbishop of Canterbury, St Mureth or Muredach and St Porcarius and his Companions.

Lectures

Tate Gallery: Hugh Bedford, "Tales of the Sea: Frank Bramley and the Newlyn School", 1pm.

Luncheons

Rotary Club of London: Mr Clifford Charles, President of the Rotary Club of London, presided at a luncheon held yesterday at the Portman Hotel, London W1. Miss Vicki Jensen, Director, Age Concern, was the speaker.

Changing of the Guard: The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery guard the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

صلى الله عليه وسلم

business & city

FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098
DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

Fund managers build up their cash piles

Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

Fund managers are turning their backs on shares in favour of cash and gilts, figures showed yesterday. They are sceptical of the Bank of England's belief that interest rates are high enough to keep inflation in check and worried that economic growth will slow over the next year.

According to a survey of institutional intentions by Merrill Lynch, the investment bank, most fund managers believe almost all the world's equity markets will fall over the next three months. As a result they

are adding to their cash piles for the first time since last July. In 1997, cash has made up between 5 and 6 per cent of the typical pension fund portfolio, the highest level of liquidity since 1991. Buyers of government bonds have also outnumbered sellers by 22 per cent.

The money managers' concerns were allayed to an extent yesterday by relatively benign producer prices data which showed the price of manufactured goods rose by 0.2 per cent in July, giving an annualised rate of output price inflation of just 1.4 per cent. The FTSE 100 index responded by closing almost unchanged at 5,031.9.

Economists said once account was taken of Budget increases in excise duties, the underlying picture was of very subdued inflation at the factory gate level. Input prices, meanwhile, continued to fall thanks to the strong pound, which yesterday closed almost 3 pence higher at DM2.95 after last week's heavy falls.

But the scepticism of the fund managers was borne out by figures yesterday from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) showing generally buoyant growth in high-street sales as building society windfalls started to find their way into home improvements and one-

off purchases of dishwashers and computers.

According to the BRC retail sales monitor for July, the value of retail sales grew by 5.2 per cent on the previous year, compared to growth rates of 4.5 per cent in June and 4.8 per cent in May. Although down on last July's growth rate of 6.3 per cent, the figures showed consumers have so far failed to react to the four interest rate rises the Bank has announced in as many months.

The caution of British investing institutions is in marked contrast to American fund managers, who remain bullish despite the high level of the Dow

Jones Index and signs that the bond market is heading lower as fears of inflation rise.

According to Bijal Shah, global strategist at Merrill Lynch, US mutual funds are holding a lower proportion of cash than at any time in the past 20 years. Merrill Lynch has turned bearish on the London market, largely as a result of worries about Wall Street, where it believes the market is poised for a sharp correction.

The outlook for global equities is dominated by Wall Street. Interestingly, in our US fund manager survey, the number of managers who expect inflation to rise over the coming

year has risen to 45 per cent from 28 per cent last month. If inflation does rise, the Federal Reserve will tighten monetary policy and this could cause a correction in equity prices.

Markets on both sides of the Atlantic will focus on inflation this week, with a raft of data expected in the US and UK. Yesterday's retail sales numbers at home will be followed by their US equivalent tomorrow. Wednesday will have British unemployment and average earnings numbers.

On the outlook for interest rates, fund managers are at odds with the Bank of England, which accompanied the most

recent rate rise to 7 per cent with a hint that rates would not have to rise further in the short term. Merrill Lynch's survey, conducted on the three days before the rate rise, showed managers expecting base rates of 7.4 per cent in a year's time.

Merrill Lynch takes an even more pessimistic view of the cost of money, believing rates could rise higher than that.

"With continental European economic activity accelerating, UK growth and base rates could go higher than most of these managers are expecting," Mr Shah said.

Recovery in Europe provided the only bright spot in the

survey for stock markets with 21 per cent more fund managers expecting continental equities to rise over the next three months than fall over that period. More investors expect falls than rises elsewhere, with the greatest degree of pessimism reserved for Pacific Basin markets outside Japan.

Only Hong Kong is viewed as a safe haven in the Far East, with the rest of the area perceived to be paying the price for the rapid growth of the late 1980s and 1990s which resulted in a property boom. In Malaysia, the amount of retail space in the country is expected to double over the next two years.

Dixons chief makes £1.1m from options

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Directors of Dixons, the electrical retailer, made £2.8m from the sale of share options last year. Sir Stanley Kalms, the group's outspoken chairman, and finance director, Robert Shrager, cashed in virtually their entire entitlement.

Sir Stanley was the largest beneficiary, recording a gain of £1.1m on the sale of options. This was in addition to his £389,000 salary and the £5.7m he made from the sale of more than a million shares in February. That action came just days after he attacked a broker for issuing a sell note on the company's shares. The combination of salary, shares and options sales means Sir Stanley made £7.7m from Dixons last year.

The company said the sale of options was a personal matter for the directors and should not be taken as an indication of their confidence in the future of the business, adding that some options had been cashed in because they were due to expire. "It is their entitlement to cash them in when the time is right for them. It is purely for personal reasons."

Sir Stanley, who has built up Dixons from a one-store family business, said there was no point in hanging on to his shares forever. "What am I going to do, take them to my grave?" he asked last month. "I can see my tombstone. Stanley Kalms lies here, along with his Dixons shares."

The combative retailer still retains more than 2 million shares in the business. However, he now has only 7,000 options left. His £893,000 salary represented an increase of £28,000 on the previous year.

Robert Shrager, finance director, also made £1m from share option sales last year. Together with his £227,000 salary, down from £295,000 the year before, this took his total gain to £1.3m.

The other director to sell virtually his entire entitlement of options was Mark Souhami, the deputy chairman who has been with the group for 27 years. He made a profit of £485,000 from the sale of more than 200,000 options and has just 4,400 left.

The only director who did not choose to cash in was John Clare, chief executive. He realised £162,000 from share option sales last year but sold less than 10 per cent of his total. However, he made £400,000 from share option sales in the previous financial year, more than any other director. Last year his total pay fell from £438,000 to £352,000.

Dixons has enjoyed an excellent year with its sales boosted by rising consumer confidence and the impact of the building society windfalls. Last month it reported soaring like-for-like sales gains, saying its stores were feeling the benefit of the windfall money as soon as the cheques hit consumers' doorsteps.

The group will create 3,000 jobs this year as it invests £100m opening stores across its portfolio of formats which includes Currys, PC World and The Link.



Sir Stanley Kalms: No point on hanging on forever



Briefly steering clear of interest rate worries, Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England (above), takes the helm of the *Sarah Rose II*, a wide-beam riverboat especially designed for people with disabilities. It is operated by Grooms Holidays, a division of the national charity, the John Grooms Association for Disabled People. Mr George, a long-standing

supporter of John Grooms, said: "This latest addition to Grooms Holidays will be a valuable asset indeed. *Sarah II* will offer more people with disabilities a wonderful way of taking in some of London's history and enjoying the unique atmosphere of the River Thames."

Photograph: John Voos

Leicester Tigers plan to go public

Clifford German

Season ticket-holders at Leicester Tigers, the winners of the 1997 Pilkington Cup, will get the chance to invest in the rugby club this autumn if plans announced yesterday to convert to a publicly quoted company proceed. More than 9,000 holders have already renewed their membership by paying a minimum of £95 for a season ticket, but membership lists will close on 31 August and a rush of new applications seems likely before the deadline.

Only paid-up members will be allowed to vote on the

change of status under rules set by the Registrar of Industrial and Provident Societies which require two meetings. The first meeting to be held on 11 September needs the approval of a 75 per cent majority of the members voting, to be followed within four weeks by a simple majority.

Members would be given five free shares but the club hopes to raise up to £3m in the autumn to finance further increases in the capacity at its Welford Road ground, which is currently limited to just under 17,000, and to build up the professional playing staff. The

terms of any capital-raising exercise have not yet been decided but members will be given preference if there is a public offer for sale, according to Peter Wheeler, the former England and British Lions player who is now Leicester's chief executive.

Several other top English clubs have already converted to limited companies, to allow leading backers to take controlling stakes, but if the Leicester plan is approved, the Tigers will be the first fully quoted independent rugby club. If only half the likely membership subscribed £500 each they could

meet the club's initial capital needs without ceding control to a single shareholder.

The Tigers need new capital to support a substantially increased wage bill and to buy players to support their stated ambition of establishing themselves as the top club side in Europe. The club's total revenue last year was around £3.1m including season ticket sales, gate admissions, merchandising and sponsorship deals, while total expenditure was around £3.4m, including a wage bill of £1.5m for the playing staff.

The club has signed several top professionals who were out

of contract elsewhere during the close season and now has a squad of 28 players including six British Lions, and an annual wage bill in excess of £2m. All the leading rugby players were now under contract, Mr Wheeler said yesterday, and further signings would require the payment of transfer fees.

The plans include more executive boxes and conference, banqueting, sponsorship and merchandising facilities to generate income seven days a week all year round. Sponsors include Alliance & Leicester, Next and Telford's and a major new sponsorship will be announced soon.

Scottish to renew energy assault

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

ScottishPower is preparing to accelerate its assault on the residential energy market after being given approval from Offer, the industry watchdog, to bring forward the start of domestic power competition in southern Scotland and its North West territory, which includes North Wales.

The group will now join the first wave of electricity suppliers, alongside Eastern, Yorkshire and Seaboard, which are able to offer customers the choice of supplier when the market opens on 1 April 1998. Offer is expected to announce ScottishPower's accelerated timetable later this week.

The group has told Offer it is moving the testing of its new computer systems from January 1998 to October this year. The change means that plans to start competition in its regions east May have been brought forward to April.

The improvement affects the group's 3 million customers in the southern half of Scotland and in Manweb, its regional electricity subsidiary in North Wales and the North West. Competition is being phased in by postcode area, with customers in Motherwell among the first to be able to choose alternative suppliers.

Under rules drawn up by Offer, ScottishPower will now be allowed to compete for customers in the areas opened up by the three other power companies in the first wave. Because so many regional electricity companies have been unable to introduce competition on time, Offer has banned latecomers from competing in opened-up regions until their own systems have been successfully introduced.

The other three electricity groups in the first wave were already planning to exploit their advantage by marketing in other areas. ScottishPower wanted to join the early starters after its aggressive attack on the emerging domestic gas market.

EC delays decision on cross-channel ferry merger

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

P&O, the shipping to property group, is facing further delays to its planned cross-channel ferry merger with Stena of Sweden after hold-ups in gaining approval from the European Commission.

The two companies are not expecting to hear a response from Karel van Miert, the competition commissioner, until next month at the earliest. Lord Sterling, P&O's chairman, had

previously hoped to clear the final regulatory hurdles by July. The Commission wrote to the two companies in June expressing serious doubts about the link-up, which would give the two companies around 40 per cent of the market. They centred on the need to ensure the venture operated separately from their other businesses and did not receive any cross-subsidies or marketing help from their parent groups.

P&O replied to the letter a month ago, giving assurances

that the company would operate autonomously. Since then executives have been given no further indications of the Commission's intentions, including whether any conditions would be attached to the merger. One suggestion was that the EC was diverting most of its resources into the probe into British Airways' controversial alliance with American Airlines.

The hold-up has delayed the publication of the Monopolies & Mergers Commission report on the merger, which has been

sitting on the desk of Margaret Beckett, president of the Board of Trade, since the election. Ministers are thought to be anxious to give a similar verdict to the EC, which has been viewed as the higher competition authority in this case, while officials in Brussels are thought to have already received a copy of the MMC report. However the two companies have been mystified by the decision to delay releasing the MMC report. The competition authorities in France have already

given the deal their approval. The plans envisage saving £75m a year out of a total budget of £280m by taking two ships off the Dover-Calais route, out of the 14 owned by the two companies, with the loss of at least 400 jobs. The capacity cuts were a response to the start of the Channel Tunnel, which led to a savage price war with the ferries.

The new company, to be called P&O Stena Line, which would also operate on routes between Dover and Zeebrugge

and Newhaven and Dieppe, would be 60 per cent owned by P&O with the rest owned by Stena.

P&O has been anxious to conclude the deal before the end of the summer tourist season. Ferry demand tends to drop sharply in October, before picking up again in the run-up to Christmas. However loadings on ferries this summer have surged by around 15 per cent as British passengers sought to take advantage of the surge in the value of the pound.

WH Smith 'drift' worries investors

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Several institutional shareholders in WH Smith are becoming impatient over the company's failure to appoint a chief executive to replace Bill Cockburn, whose shock decision to quit after just 18 months in the post was announced six weeks ago. They are worried about a period of "drift" at the company, which is facing serious problems in its core business and are keen for an appointment to be made as soon as possible.

One shareholder said the lack of progress was a "concern" and that the lack of direction at the top "cannot be doing the business any favours". However, another shareholder was more supportive saying: "If a chief executive leaves out of the blue it isn't easy to get an instant replacement."

It is understood that WH Smith will not make an announcement about a new chief executive until after it reports its full-year results on 27 August. Though Mr Cockburn is not due to leave the company until October, when he takes up his position as head of BT's UK business, he will not present the figures and is seen within Smith's as a "lame duck" leader.

The effects of the lack of strategic direction at the top are thought to be most serious at the core WH Smith high-street business, where Mr Cockburn had appointed himself chairman and was concentrating his energies.

There are four internal candidates for the position: Keith Hamill, the finance director; John Hancock who runs the US operations; Richard Handover, head of the news distribution business; and Alan Giles, who runs the Waterstones bookstores group. Spencer Stuart, the headhunters have been appointed to identify the best candidate and external names in the running include Stuart Rose, the former Burton director.

There have been concerns that the long list of internal candidates is encouraging factions to form.

Jeremy Hardie, WH Smith's part-time chairman, is spending more time at the company and the group is keen to play down suggestions that it is struggling to fill the role.

Keith Hamill, seen by many as the leading internal candidate, is thought to favour breaking the company up. Alan Giles is understood to favour keeping the group together, as is Richard Handover.

| STOCK MARKETS | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| FTSE 100 | | | | | | | | | |
| Index | Close | Week's chg | Change (%) | 2000/01 High | 2000/01 Low | 2000/01 Range | 2000/01 High | 2000/01 Low | 2000/01 Range |
| FTSE 100 | 5031.30 | +132.0 | +2.7 | 5085.80 | 4056.50 | 3.26 | | | |
| FTSE 250 | 4850.50 | +182.1 | +3.6 | 4729.40 | 4386.20 | 3.57 | | | |
| FTSE 350 | 2415.80 | +67.3 | +2.8 | 2432.30 | 2017.90 | 3.33 | | | |
| FTSE SmallCap | 2208.78 | +21.1 | +1.0 | 2374.20 | 2178.25 | 3.24 | | | |
| FTSE All-Share | 2354.83 | +62.9 | +2.7 | 2369.07 | 1999.78 | 3.33 | | | |
| Nasdaq | 8031.22 | +162.8 | +2.0 | 8259.31 | 5032.94 | 1.58 | | | |
| Tokyo | 19604.46 | -199.9 | -1.0 | 20681.07 | 17303.65 | 0.801 | | | |
| Hong Kong | 16647.54 | +258.3 | +1.6 | 16673.27 | 12155.17 | 2.691 | | | |
| Frankfurt | 4354.15 | -54.6 | -1.2 | 4438.93 | 2848.77 | 1.261 | | | |

Statistics as of 11 August

| INTEREST RATES | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|---------|--------|-----------------|---------------|
| UK interest rates | | | | | US interest rates | | | | |
| Index | 1 Month | 1 Year | Medium Term (%) | Long Term (%) | Index | 1 Month | 1 Year | Medium Term (%) | Long Term (%) |
| UK | 5.75 | 7.44 | 7.09 | 7.75 | 7.12 | 7.91 | | | |
| US | 5.50 | 5.94 | 6.37 | 6.53 | 6.63 | 6.81 | | | |
| Japan | 0.47 | 0.59 | 2.11 | 3.19 | | | | | |
| Germany | 3.13 | 3.50 | 6.72 | 6.90 | 6.46 | | | | |

| CURRENCIES | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------|------------|---------|---------|--------------|---------|------------|---------|---------|
| £/\$ | | | | | £/DM | | | | |
| Index | Close | Week's chg | Tr 1 Yr | Tr 5 Yr | Index | Close | Week's chg | Tr 1 Yr | Tr 5 Yr |
| \$ (London) | 1.5784 | -5.86c | 1.5498 | | £ (London) | 0.6338 | +2.77 | 0.6453 | |
| \$ (New York) | 1.5675 | -4.40c | 1.5495 | | £ (New York) | 0.6289 | +1.77 | 0.6454 | |
| DM (London) | 2.9249 | -11.45c | 2.9304 | | DM (London) | 1.6581 | -0.36c | 1.4845 | |
| ¥ (London) | 182.925 | -10.25 | 167.613 | | ¥ (London) | 115.880 | -12.175 | 108.186 | |
| £ Index | 101.3 | -4.0 | 84.8 | | £ Index | 105.9 | -0.1 | 98.2 | |

| MAIN PRICE CHANGES | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|------------|---------|---------|-------|-------|------------|---------|---------|
| Index | Close | Week's chg | Tr 1 Yr | Tr 5 Yr | Index | Close | Week's chg | Tr 1 Yr | Tr 5 Yr |
| Japan | 218.5 | -39.6 | 22.1 | 564.5 | 44.5 | 7.3 | | | |
| Smith Barney | 225 | 38 | 20.3 | 497.5 | 29 | 5.5 | | | |
| Apco Wiggins Apple | 193 | 30 | 18.4 | 542.5 | 34 | 5.0 | | | |

business

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN
EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Bid may drag waste sector out of dumps

Whatever happened to Britain's waste management industry? Labeled as one of the great green growth industries in the 1980s on the back of increasing environmental awareness, investors have seen a mixture of lack of demand and falling landfill prices combine to drive down share prices of companies like Shanks & McEwan, Leigh Interests and Caird. That could be about to change. Yesterday's confirmation of a possible bid for Leigh from General Utilities, the British arm of French giant Compagnie Generale des Eaux, may signal a slow but sure turning point for the industry. The bid lifted Leigh's share price 27.5p to 146.5p, valuing the company just short of £98m.

Investors will be suspicious of another false dawn. Waste management had all the features of a fantastic sector in the mid-Eighties. A tide of environmental concern about waste disposal was sweeping into Europe from the US. And with well over 2000 players in the UK, investors saw an opportunity for heavyweights to mop up the competition.

Not only did enforcing legislation turn out to be more difficult than expected, but the recession hit. Industrial production fell and with it industrial waste production, the most profitable market for disposal. Moreover industrial producers, trying to conserve costs, stockpiled waste, driving

Farnell finally on the turn

The tide seems to be turning for Premier Farnell, the distributor of specialist electronic compo-

neers, which yesterday released the first of a series of quarterly trading reports.

This is the first time in almost two years that a major statement from Farnell has not resulted in a flurry of brokers' profit downgrades.

Each of the company's operating divisions is increasing sales for the first half of the year, although sterling's strength will dent overseas profits by £5m.

News of growth, which sent the shares up 4p to 536.5p, is music to investors' ears. Farnell's management rapidly lost favour with the City last year after being widely criticised for overpaying in its £1.9bn bid for US rival Premier, funded by a rights issue at 540p.

To add to the pain, a bungled profits warning in January this year sent the recovering share price diving from almost 700p. The strong pound has compounded Farnell's troubles, with 70 per cent of its profits from overseas.

Now with the integration of Premier on track and the market in electronic components looking firmer after a weak year, shareholders might now consider this a cheap stock. After all, no one ever argued that buying Premier was strategically wrong.

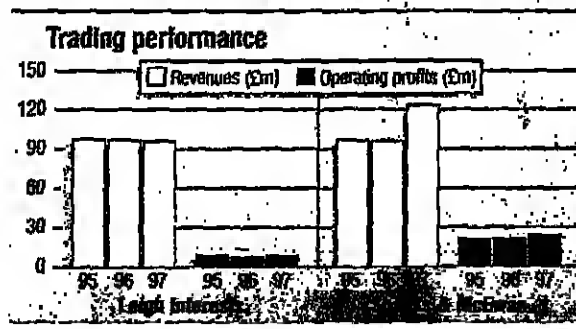
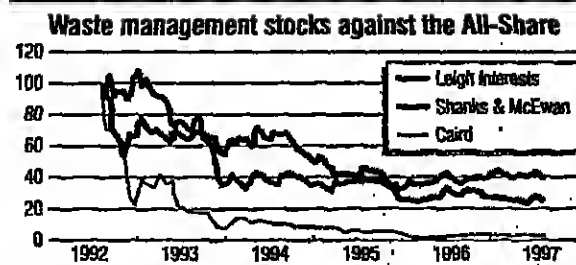
There are clear cost savings to be had from combining catalogues of components and, compared to volume distributors such as Abacus Polar, specialist component players such as Premier Farnell, now a major force in the sector, can achieve juicy margins.

Compared to rival Electrocomponents, which trades on a 50 per cent premium to the market, Farnell trades on a much cheaper 5 to 10 per cent premium.

Premier Farnell's share price has improved in the past week as the pound has weakened and the emergence of new buyers has given further cause for hope. Within the past month, two US institutions have bought more than 3 per cent of the shares each.

Merrill Lynch reckons Farnell could grow faster than Electrocomponents in 1999, and is forecasting pre-tax profits of £156m and earnings per share of 28.2p for the current year. On that basis, Farnell is on a forward multiple of 19. Not bargain basement, but good value for the sector.

UK waste management: At a glance



Pan Andean back in the hunt

The good news for Pan Andean Resources' long-suffering shareholders is that confidentiality agreements have been signed with four international oil companies with a view to replacing the joint exploration agreement with BHP that collapsed three months ago. The bad news, with which investors in the AIM-listed resources company are more familiar, is that drilling of a second well in the Chapare exploration block in Bolivia is no nearer starting.

The first joint venture, hopes for which drove Pan Andean's share price into the stratosphere at the end of last year, did not survive the apparent leak from BHP in October that the first well was not commercially viable.

That bungled announcement sent Pan Andean shares into a free fall from which they have never recovered. From a high of 135.5p they lost three quarters of their value in days and have languished ever since.

For a company that has over made a profit and over paid a dividend in almost 10 years of existence, the delay is disappointing. With BHP in effect forfeiting its stake in the venture, however, Pan Andean has been left with 100 per cent of the Chapare concession, an area the size of Wales, on which \$30m worth of exploration work had been carried out and paid for by its former partner.

Chairman John Teeling says the chances of finding oil in commercial quantities are still good, and he hopes to clinch a new deal which will allow Pan Andean to keep perhaps 30 per cent of the equity. Meanwhile the new Bolivian Hydrocarbon Law which took effect last month opens up 11 state-owned oil and gas fields for tender on easy terms which even a tiddler can meet.

Up 2p to 35.5p, the shares focused yesterday on the potential, which could be mouth-watering but as likely will end in disappointment. As ever, an enormous punt.

Yamaichi board quits over racketeer links

Richard Lloyd Parry
Tokyo

Yamaichi Securities announced the resignation of 11 of its senior executives yesterday in the latest act of contrition by a Japanese financial institution enmeshed in the country's corporate racketeer scandal.

The company's president, Atsuo Miki, formally resigned along with the chairman, Tsugio Yukihira, and nine other board members in the wake of a scandal concerning the firm's links with a *sokaiya*, or corporate blackmailer. "Our firm is determined to make a clean break with the negative legacy of the past," said Yamaichi's new president, Shobei Nozawa. All of the men resigning denied personal responsibility for the scandal, which is still being investigated by prosecutors.

Police raided the homes and offices of several of the company's senior executives last month on the suspicion that Yamaichi made some 79 million yen (£429,000) of illegal payments to a *sokaiya* named Ryuchi Koike as "compensation" for trading losses. *Sokaiya* extort money from companies

by threatening to disrupt their annual general meetings and publicising the sexual and financial improprieties of their management.

Since a tightening up of the law in 1983 it has been technically illegal to pay them off, but the practice has remained routine among image-conscious companies.

Similar revelations involving Mr Koike have already shaken up Nomura Securities and the Dai-ichi Bank, which last month were ordered by the Japanese Finance Ministry to close down some of their most profitable operations as a punishment. Yamaichi is the smallest of Japan's so-called Big Four brokerages, and is already hurting badly from the scandal.

According to Shoji Saotome, the new chairman, two corporations have dispensed with Yamaichi's services as an underwriter of bonds since the raid on the brokerage's offices.

Between April and June, Yamaichi posted 5.43bn yen (£29m) in losses. The ongoing deregulation of Tokyo's financial markets, which allows banks to compete with brokerages, is further adding to its troubles.

IMF approves \$16bn in loans to bail out ailing Thai economy

Matthew Chance

Negotiators meeting in Japan have agreed a big rescue package for the ailing Thai economy, with a total of \$16bn in emergency loans being approved by the International Monetary Fund along with several Asian and Pacific countries. Japan is to play the biggest role in any of the bailout, pledging Thailand \$4bn, a figure matched only by the IMF in a package which could be expanded to \$20bn in loans for Thailand to bolster its tarnished image with investors.

The money is intended to shore up Thailand's foreign reserves in a bid to calm flagging confidence in the country, which sparked a currency crisis last month, sending the Thai baht plummeting by 25 per cent.

The crisis also affected other economies in the region and 10 countries from four continents, including eight from Asia, are to help in the bailout. Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia and Singapore also agreed to lend Thailand \$1bn; South Korea and Indonesia are

to contribute \$500m in loans. China is also participating in the scheme designed to shake Thailand out of its dire economic malaise.

"The impressive part of this package is the extremely significant contributions from countries in the Asia-Pacific region," said Eisuke Sakakibara, Japan's vice finance minister for international affairs. It will be the world's second-largest economic rescue plan, after the \$50bn offered to Mexico in 1994.

Analysts said the large portfolio offered by Asian countries indicated a new concern for region-wide economic stability. "This is quite unusual," said Mark Sunberg, a regional economist at Salomon Brothers in Hong Kong. "It indicates that certain countries in the region are concerned about stabilising Thailand's economic situation to prevent the damage from spreading."

Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's financial secretary, confirmed those concerns that a falling Thai economy might bring down the economies of its

neighbours: "As a regional finance centre, we can't just sit idly by."

Japan's role in brokering the offer signals a stronger role for Japan in an increasingly interdependent region. "This is a natural development for Japan, as there is an implicit rule in the international community that the strongest country takes the lead," said Robert Feldman, economist at Salomon Brothers Asia.

Once the world's fastest-growing economy, in recent years Thailand has lost much of its lustre. Drops in crucial exports, an overstretched banking sector dogged by bad loans to property developers, and high unemployment have combined with government inaction to present Thailand with its biggest economic crisis.

The decision to seek IMF help was taken last month after a bitter *de facto* devaluation of the baht, heavily defended by the Thai central bank on the currency markets. As stringent IMF reforms, such as tax rises and public spending cuts, are implemented, concerns are

growing of political instability in Thailand, a country in the past prone to military intervention. The government of Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, the prime minister, was elected on a pledge to return the country to the prosperity and the economic boom times that have, over the past 20 years, made Thailand one of the world's most dynamic Asian Tiger economies. But his fall-back on the IMF is being viewed as a tacit admission of failure.

Few details have been finalised, but in exchange for the rescue plan, the IMF is demanding stringent control over the Thai economy. In Bangkok, Chaturon Chaisaeng, the Thai deputy finance minister, said the government had already agreed to more than \$200 of cuts in public spending demanded by the IMF. He said public health, schools and welfare programmes would be unaffected, but the political consequences of implementing such measures may be disastrous for the government, and diplomats remain sceptical that the Bangkok administration will find the political will to implement them all.

month at 245p. The Securities and Futures Authority is investigating the wild fluctuations in price in its capacity as regulator of JP Jenkins, the market maker which runs the Oxf market. Oxf has already raised over £100m for around 170 companies.

Display IT's suspension stemmed from its relationship with a Luxembourg company, Alsina.

The company originally said it had a £5.7m contract with Alsina to supply share prices culled from the Internet, but two weeks ago said that the contract had "failed".

Mr Ward has stepped in as chairman of Display IT, and together with Mr Hanif will prepare an interim report for the egm.

John Wilcock

Display IT, the troubled on-line business information company whose shares were suspended a month ago, said yesterday that founder Peter Levin, his wife Marjorie and fellow director Carita Edwards have resigned from the board.

The resignation of these last remaining directors has cleared the way for a shareholder-led rescue of the Oxf-listed company. Yesterday David Ward and Dr H Hanif, who described themselves as small shareholders in the company, were appointed as the sole directors of Display IT.

Mr Ward said: "We want to rescue the company, and to see that shareholders are treated fairly."

The new directors were called for an extraordinary general meeting for shareholders under the Companies Act to be held at Display IT's City headquarters at 46 Cannon Street at 4pm on 29 August.

The company also said yesterday that "shareholders will be notified of the reasons behind the resignation of the company's auditors Deloitte & Touche very shortly".

As well as the auditors, the company has suffered the resignation of its entire board, its Press advisers College Hill and its solicitors Taylor Johnson Garrett over the last six weeks.

Display IT's shareholders have experienced a spectacular roller-coaster since the shares hit 810p earlier this year. The shares were suspended last

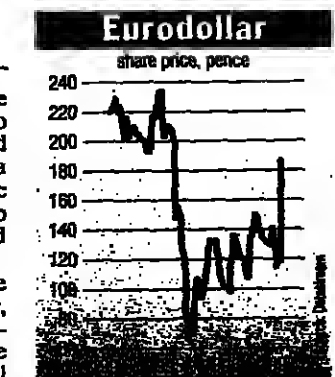
Eurodollar takeover puts directors in line for £12m

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

The directors of Eurodollar, the car rental group, are set to share £12m after the board yesterday recommended a £95m cash offer from Republic Industries, a US motor group which owns the Alamo and National Car Rental chains.

The largest beneficiary will be chief executive Ian Mosley, who will get £4m. Freddie Aldous, chairman, and Steve Westoby, finance director, will both realise £3m from the deal while John Leigh, director of UK operations, will get £2.7m.

The cash offer is struck at 190p a share which represents a 60 per cent premium to Friday's closing price. However, it



is still well below the 220p pricing when the company came to the market three years ago.

Eurodollar was hit by two profit warnings in a matter of months at the end of 1995

caused by a sharp fall in the residual value of ex-rental vehicles. At one point the shares fell as low as 67p.

Ian Mosley said: "It would be nice if things had been different. But compared to the 67p of not long ago, this looks wonderful." The shares closed 69.5p higher yesterday at 188p.

The deal will make Eurodollar a more powerful force in the car rental sector which is increasingly becoming a global business with large corporate clients looking for world-wide deals with one operator.

Eurodollar is already the second-largest car rental group in the UK behind Avis. Hertz remains the world leader.

Republic Industries, based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, said

the acquisition of Eurodollar would enable it to expand in the UK and Europe. It hopes to expand Eurodollar's business overseas, particularly in the US, and also increase the volume of US customers renting cars in Britain.

The Eurodollar name is likely to be dropped though no decision has been taken on a new brand.

It is likely that Republic will withdraw from Eurodollar's contract with the Dollar car rental operation in the US which has not proved satisfactory.

Republic Industries is the largest new vehicle retailer in the US but also has five car rental brands including Alamo, National Car Rental, Spirit and

Snappy. Car rental accounts for around 30 per cent of the group's \$2.4bn sales.

The group recorded a net loss of \$59m last year but is capitalised at \$9m.

Eurodollar recorded profits of £8.3m on sales of £107m in the year to March. It has 110 branches in the UK which account for most of its business.

Geoff Corbett of Republic's car rental division said there would be no job losses and that the plans to grow the business meant new employment could be created. The Eurodollar board will be retained.

Eurodollar will pay an interim dividend of 2.5p per share subject to the offer becoming unconditional before 20 November.

Sinclair Montrose creates railway surgeries for commuters too busy to visit a doctor



Feeling worn out? Blocked sinuses? In need of a medical? Then why not visit your local railway station, writes Sameena Ahmad.

Thanks to Sinclair Montrose, the AIM-listed healthcare group, commuters with no time to visit a local doctor can nip into Medicentre surgeries at Victoria and Euston stations for a check-up before leaping on to their trains.

Sinclair Montrose, which yesterday announced a £6.6m private fundraising, said it planned to roll out the Medicentre concept to 24 surgeries by the end of next year, including centres at Charing Cross and Waterloo railway stations. This year the group intends to open four centres, including surgeries in a Sainsbury in Sheffield and in the Metrocentre shopping centre in Gateshead.

The group will also open a second surgery at Victoria station. Kate Bleasdale, chief executive (left), said the Medicentre concept, where patients pay an average of £36 for a 15-minute consultation and up to £180 for a medical, had proved popular.

IN BRIEF

Emap ventures into Australia

Emap, the publishing group, has made its first foray into Australia, with the purchase of Mason Stewart Publishing and Bounty Services for a total of £5m. Both companies are licensees of a number of Emap titles, including *Smash Hits*, *Slimming* and *Mother and Baby*. Marcus Rich, who was until recently publishing director of Emap Metro, will be managing director of the new company. He said: "We believe there is further potential for our magazines in Australia. These acquisitions will provide us with an excellent base in that part of the world."

Ladbroke secures fresh casino licence

Ladbroke Group, the hotel and gaming company, said yesterday that it had been granted a new casino licence, but refused to comment on mounting speculation it would expand its gaming empire by bidding for Capital Corporation, the London-based casino group who recently escaped from a takeover bid from rival London Clubs. Ladbroke, which already operates four London casinos, including Maxims and the Barracuda, said it would spend £1.5m on the Ladbroke Sporting Club, a casino in the West End aimed at lower-stakes gamblers. The new casino will open next summer. Shares in Ladbroke rose 2p to close at 248.5p.

CinVen buys medicine maker in £55m deal

CinVeo, the food management firm, has bought Macarthy Group, a maker of injectable and special medicines, from Gebe in a £55m deal. CinVen, which secured the acquisition in conjunction with a management buyout team, said the move was part of Gebe's strategy to divest itself of the manufacturing businesses previously owned by Lloyds Chemists. The German pharmaceutical group bought Lloyds at the beginning of the year after a long takeover battle. Macarthy's existing management team will remain in place.

Ascot Holdings to sell up in France

Ascot Holdings is to sell its French unit, Clearplas France, to a division of Key Plastics, a US manufacturer of plastic components and automotive parts, for around \$5m (£3.6m). Clearplas France manufactures plastic injection components for the automotive industry. Ascot said further disposals were planned.

Beckett gives go-ahead for three mergers

Margaret Beckett, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, yesterday gave three mergers the green light. Granada Group's purchase of Yorkshire-Tees Television will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Abbey National's acquisition of Cater Allen Holdings and Wardle Stores' takeover of the Dunlop Beaufort Division of BTR were also waved through.

Low & Bonar makes £11m purchase

Low & Bonar, the plastics and packaging group, has bought Nuway Manufacturing from BTR for £11m in cash. Low & Bonar said yesterday that integrating the business was expected to cost around £1m. In the year to the end of December, Nuway made an operating profit before management charges of £1.3m on sales of £28.9m. Nuway makes matting systems for airports, hospitals and hotels.

| Company Results | | Turnover £ | | Pre-tax £ | | EPS | | Dividend | |
|---|--|-------------------|--|--------------------|--|----------------|--|---------------|--|
| | | 1996/97 | | 1996/97 | | 1996/97 | | 1996/97 | |
| Corstorphine (Q) | | 37.35m (34.80m) | | 5.41m (4.98m) | | 7.9p (7.1p) | | all | |
| Dean Corp (Q) | | 16.15m (7.73m) | | 799,000 (883,000) | | 1.13p (0.72p) | | 0.5p (0.25p) | |
| Diageo (Q) | | 17.85m (12.83m) | | 1,070m (781,000) | | 3.8p (2.7p) | | 0.8p (0.6p) | |
| European Midway (Q) | | - | | - | | - | | - | |
| Kodak International (Q) | | 0.53m (0.51m) | | -209,000 (157,000) | | -3.2p (0.02p) | | 0.18p (0.02p) | |
| Paul Anderson (Q) | | 791,000 (208,000) | | 791,000 (208,000) | | 5.5p (4p) | | 0.75p (0.75p) | |
| Westpac (Q) | | - | | -10,571 (142,584) | | -4.25p (0.35p) | | - | |
| Worthington (Q) | | 4.77m (4.01m) | | 1.38m (1.19m) | | 6.8p (6.0p) | | - | |
| (P) - Profit (Q) - Income (M) - Nine months | | | | | | | | | |

Market takes a pause on the wall of worry



For every black cloud worrying a British investor there is a silver lining to console his optimistic colleague on Wall Street

Those who believe in the old adage that bull markets have to climb a wall of worry must conclude that London has yet to reach the top. Yesterday the Footsie shrugged off Friday night's Wall Street wobble, the biggest one day fall in Tokyo this year and a rash of stocks going ex-dividend to retain its composure.

There are plenty of doomsters around to keep the climb going starting with Merrill Lynch whose latest survey shows institutional investors worrying about interest rates still heading upwards, economic activity declining in a year's time and world stock markets falling over the next three months.

As a result, they are shunning equities, putting more cash aside than at any time since 1991 and heading into the perceived safe haven of gilts. For the contrarian investor, it is as good a reason for the bull market to continue its stampede as Alan Greenspan's famous mis-timed "irrational exuberance" remarks when the Dow languished, in relative terms, at 6,000.

For every black cloud worrying a British investor, however, there is a silver lining to console his optimistic colleague on Wall Street. Over there, despite Friday's jitters, professional investors have bought into the dangerous belief that there's been what stock market analysts call a paradigm shift - in other words that this time things will be different.

It rarely is, and the fact that mutual funds' cash piles are at their lowest level for 20

years, that everyone is saying the economic cycle is dead and are running scared of being out of the market while it powers ahead is the strongest sign yet that it's going to end in tears on Wall Street.

The bond market knows it and has been breading the wrong way for some time now. It would be surprising if retail sales figures on Wednesday did not confirm all the recent data pointing to a strengthening economy and, if so, it is a racing certainty that the Fed's Open Market Committee will nudge interest rates higher either at its meeting next week or at the end of September.

So where should the smart money be heading? In Europe profits growth looks set to accelerate, especially from the export sector benefiting from its unaccustomed competitiveness, interest rates look likely to remain low and no-one thinks the stock markets are going anywhere. It is hard to think of a more propitious backdrop.

Not a pretty Pitcher at United Utilities

The chart at the bottom of this page shows why Sir Desmond Pitcher's time is up at United Utilities. When things are going right, the City can be the most wonderfully tolerant of places, blind to even the most extravagant examples of empire building by domineering executive chairmen. When things are going wrong, as they are in the

North West, then share price underperformance of the sort Sir Des has presided over, is more than enough excuse to don the black cap.

The group's recently-departed chief executive, Brian Staples, recognised this and resolved that if United Utilities was to restore its stock market rating then it had better get rid of Sir Des. Unfortunately for the Staples camp, Sir Des got his retaliation in first, ousting his opponent while the balance of power on the United Utilities board still rested in his favour.

As so often happens, however, Sir Des emerged victorious from the struggle only to discover that he too had been fatally wounded. Far from clearing the air, the departure of yet another chief executive has merely heightened the atmosphere of crisis surrounding the boardroom.

Were Sir Des the sort who goes quietly then he would be picking up the watch, the vote of thanks and gold medal for utility services at today's unscheduled board meeting in Warrington. His determination to stand firm in the face of overwhelmingly opposition from institutional shareholders makes a more ignominious departure inevitable, if not today then certainly this side of Christmas.

If the group has any sense it will revert to a combination of non-executive chairman and chief executive. The chairman will have to come from the outside since the only two credible internal candidates - Sir Peter Mid-

leton and Sir Dick Evans - have full time jobs at BZW and British Aerospace respectively.

Even then, the company will not be out of the woods. The chief executive's job also presents a problem since, in the rush to get rid of Mr Staples, the best replacement Sir Des could come up with at short notice was another who only intends to serve out another two years himself.

It is not a happy picture. Mixing water and electricity was always asking for trouble as Sir Des's vision of the multi-utility has shown. His legacy could prove just as awkward.

Cockburn's port of call ...

Bill Cockburn is a canny Scotsman but there is a just an outside danger that he could find himself in between a rock and a hard place. If the British Telecom-MCI merger does not go ahead then the job that he is quitting W H Smith to take up also disappears into the ether.

The job in question, managing director of BT's domestic telephone business, will only exist if Concert - the name given to the grand transatlantic telecoms merger with MCI - proceeds and gives Sir Peter Bonfield a wider international role to play.

Michael Hepher, who used to have the managing director's job at BT, soon found

that the organisation was not big enough to accommodate him after Sir Peter arrived as chief executive.

Without Concert, where do Mr Cockburn and, for that matter, BT go? Well, Mr Cockburn has almost certainly burnt his boats at W H Smith even though he remains there until the end of September while the search for a new chief executive trundles along. Mr Cockburn's management style did not make him many friends at the bookseller and there will be few tears shed at his departure.

As four internal candidates at W H Smith jockey for the job the talk now is of a break-up with the US business, Waterstone's and the Virgin Our Price chain split off from the core high street chain.

If Concert does not proceed - and we are told there are some institutions who do not want it at any price - then BT has some serious thinking to do. Should it too do the splits and demerge into a transmission network on the one hand and a trading business on the other? Or should it use its cash to buy direct into the local US telecoms market, which is where everyone says the real money is?

BT is under intense pressure to amend the terms of the MCI merger. MCI is sticking to its line that their agreement prevents renegotiation. Perhaps Mr Cockburn should try and help out. Otherwise he could become the first managing director of BT to receive a pay-off before he even started the job.

Crédit Suisse and Winterthur merger creates £21bn giant

Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

Crédit Suisse is to merge with Swiss life and general insurance company Winterthur to form one of the world's largest financial services groups, with a market capitalisation of SF50bn (£21bn).

The link is the latest move in a wave of consolidation expected to sweep Europe's financial sector in the run-up to monetary union.

The bank, Switzerland's second-largest, announced the proposed merger as it brought forward half-year profits showing a 70 per cent jump in profits to SF1.4bn (£579m). The sharp rise, which followed a similar improvement last week from Union Bank of Switzerland, was attributed to buoyant financial markets, domestic restructuring and the weakness of the Swiss currency.

Crédit Suisse has been looking for a partner since its proposals to merge with UBS were rejected last year. Under the terms of the deal Winterthur will remain autonomous and retain its own name.

Speculation about the future

of Winterthur increased over the weekend when Martin Ebner, one of Switzerland's leading shareholder activists, said he planned a takeover of the company in which he had built up a 30 per cent stake through BZ Bank. He offered a takeover by Crédit Suisse as an alternative and said yesterday's news was a "welcome solution at a very fair price".

The deal was also described by Winterthur chairman Peter Spaelti as "totally fair". He insisted the transaction was a merger of the two companies not a takeover, describing the planned share swap as convenient for tax reasons.

The support of Mr Ebner is important because 98 per cent of the insurer's shareholders need to approve the deal. Support was also forthcoming from Swiss Reinsurance, which holds about 5 per cent of Winterthur's shares.

Mr Ebner also holds around a quarter of UBS's shares and has been locked in a legal battle with the bank for the past three years over the introduction of a new share structure.

Following the merger, Mr Ebner is expected to control

around 7 per cent of the new group's shares, depending on whether he accepts Crédit Suisse shares for all his holding.

The merger would establish the group as one of the world's top providers of banking and insurance services. The group would manage funds of about SF700bn, have about 15 million clients and is expected to make profits in 1998 of SF3.49bn.

If the deal is approved, Crédit Suisse would make Winterthur shareholders an offer under which 7.3 Winterthur shares would be exchanged for one Crédit Suisse share.

Approval of the deal could hinge on the reaction of the US regulatory authorities, according to Salomon Brothers' banking analysts John Leonard. "One uncertainty may relate to Winterthur's US business - perhaps 15 per cent of the total - as US regulators are unfriendly to the principle of bancassurance," he said.

European Union officials are also expected to take a close look at the deal, with sources saying yesterday the merger appeared sufficiently large to require examination.



Richard Clothier (right): Has been preparing a defence against a bid

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Banks circle over Dalgety

As many as six merchant banks have compiled break-up plans for Dalgety, the beleaguered Felix and Wimalot pet food company whose shares have been hit by two profits warnings in three months.

ING Barings has compiled a "book" on the company and is understood to be talking to rival food groups about a £900m break-up bid. Other banks have prepared similar documents and have been hawking them around the food sector, trying to garner support.

Barings has not approached

the company yet and Lazards, Dalgety's financial adviser, has discouraged the group's chief executive, Richard Clothier, and its chairman, Sir Denis Henderson, from talking to the bank.

Barings is understood to have approached several large food groups such as Nestlé, Associated British Foods and Ralston

Purina of the United States to see if they would be interested in buying all or part of the group. Several brokers have issued circulars placing a break-up bid of 350p per share on the group, which would value it at £1bn. Dalgety's shares rose sharply yesterday on news of a possible bid approach, closing 16p higher at 266.5p.

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

One analyst said: "It wouldn't surprise me if the banks were circling. Dalgety has been a takeover target for two or three years and I would have thought every investment bank is looking at it." However, the analyst suggested it would be unlikely for any food group to be interested in the whole of Dalgety, which spans pet food, food ingredients, distribution and a pig meat company. "They've got some good assets but it would not be simple to sort out."

Dalgety has been expecting a bid and has been preparing its defence in conjunction with Lazards and its broker, Cazenove.

Diagonal IT staff warning

Cathy Newman

Diagonal, the IT services group which came to the main market earlier this year, has become the latest IT consultancy to warn of a shortage of skilled staff in the industry.

However, Diagonal played down the impact of the millennium on profits in the IT services sector, warning that business from technological problems related to the millennium would only contribute to growth in the short term. The company has decided not to compete for contracts to adapt computer systems for the new millennium, saying there are too many companies chasing too little business.

Unveiling an 82 per cent increase in profits before tax and flotation costs to £1.42m, Mark Samuels, executive chairman, said the dearth of experienced consultants in the marketplace had been an "interesting challenge". Wages have increased dramatically, with Diagonal hiring out its employees for as much as £1,000 a day.

Mr Samuels said the company had benefited from strong revenue growth in the division which installs software for the German company SAP. Diagonal, which made two strategic acquisitions earlier this year - Sequoia and Conos Resource - is unlikely to make any further purchases in the short term.

The reign of King Des draws to a close

Sir Desmond Pitcher, the chairman of United Utilities, is expected to fight to save his job at a specially convened board meeting in London this lunchtime. With big shareholders mulling in the wings to force his early retirement before the official date in 2000, even his most loyal supporters inside the company are suggesting his days at the helm must soon be numbered.

Though the board meeting may not decide the issue today, the level of shareholder concern is such that Sir Desmond's tenure as executive chairman looks almost certain to end before Christmas. Soundings of City investors were taken last week by Sir Peter Middleton, chairman of BZW and a United non-executive director. Sir Peter was left in no doubt about

The chairman of United Utilities is fighting shareholders to keep his job, writes Chris Godsmark

the unhappiness over Sir Desmond's role in the stock ousting last month of Brian Staples as chief executive.

As one institution put it yesterday: "We'd prefer it if he left now. But you have got to be pragmatic about these things. If he goes in three months' time it's still a lot better than 2000." United is also under intense pressure to replace Sir Desmond with a non-executive chairman, avoiding future conflicts between the chairman and chief executive.

For Sir Desmond the loss of shareholder confidence so soon after the sacking of Mr Staples

has a bitter irony. Though Mr Staples' reputation in the City was somewhat mixed, it was the exposure of the machiavellian goings on inside United's Warrington and Mayfair headquarters which cast doubt of Sir Desmond's own position.

His proud championing of United's "Progress with Responsibility" initiative at the group's results earlier this summer took on a hollow ring as stories of frequent rows between the two executives became public. The news that Mr Staples had left his partner to live with Anne-Marie Smith, Sir Desmond's secretary, did little improve matters.

With hindsight the reign of King Des, former head of Littlewoods and perhaps the most influential figure in affluent North-west business circles, began to falter more than a year ago. United launched a controversial long-term share bonus plan which could give executives payouts worth up to 87 per cent of salary. At the same time Sir Desmond received a 21 per cent basic pay rise, taking his salary to £310,000. Even the normally relaxed Association of British Insurers came out publicly against the scheme, suggesting several big investors thought it was "over generous and over complex".

"You could say Des did more to highlight the executive pay problem than anyone else, except perhaps Cedric Brown at British Gas. He single-handedly exposed the issue of long-term share bonuses and showed the lack of teeth in the Greenbury proposals," said one big shareholder yesterday. It was also the last thing the utility companies



Sir Desmond Pitcher: There is unhappiness in the City about his role in ousting Brian Staples as chief executive

needed as they stepped up their fight against Labour's proposed windfall tax.

By the group's annual shareholder meeting in July 1996 Sir Desmond had been crowned "king of the fat cats", taking the accolade from a no doubt relieved Mr Brown. Ian McCartney, Labour's employment spokesman, even turned up to

hold a mock coronation ceremony on a protester wearing a pantomime cat suit for, as he put it, "services to fat cats".

Though executives lost the vote on a show of hands, reflecting the anger of small investors, they won the reluctant backing of City institutions. The scheme was eventually amended after intense share-

holder disquiet, but the damage had been done.

The taunts took on a sinister complexion when, in June this year, Sir Desmond's Cheshire home was the subject of an arson attack, with the kitchen set alight. Sir Desmond and his wife were out at the time. An anonymous telephone call to police later claimed it was the first in a series against "fat cats".

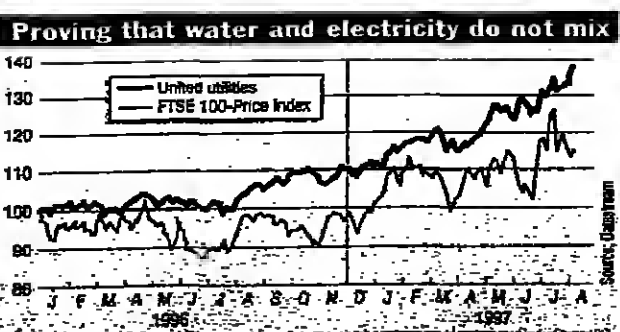
Meanwhile Sir Desmond was forced on the defensive when the company announced the losses of £90m on a municipal sewerage contract in the Thai capital, Bangkok. The whole board waived short-term cash bonuses for last year to reflect the difficulties.

Mr Staples, with his experience from construction group Tharmac, was handed the task of sorting out the mess, despite the fact that he had not joined United when the contract was first signed. Institutional investors again cited this as a sign of the apparent inability of senior executives to work together.

If Sir Desmond does agree to step down then he may look back on the formation of United Utilities at the start of last year as his major achievement. The £1.8bn contested bid by North West Water for Norweb created a multi-utility leviathan which left King Des in control of water, sewerage and electricity across a huge chunk of the densely populated North-west.

Yet his bold pledge at the time - to boost shareholder returns through restructuring the combined operations - has a different tone 18 months on. Institutions and analysts alike now complain of United's "dramatic underperformance" and "lack of direction" questioning what Sir Desmond has done to justify his generous pay package.

This looks like being one battle King Des cannot win.



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UDO Holdings plc (the "Company") announces that, by means of a formal tender offer document dated and despatched on 5 August 1997 (the "Tender Offer Document"), it has made an offer (the "Tender Offer") to repurchase up to 7,407,407 Ordinary Shares at a maximum price of 175p per ordinary share, payable in cash, subject to the full terms and conditions of the Tender Offer which are set out in the Tender Offer Document.

The Tender Offer will close at 3.00 p.m. on 20 August 1997. Tender Forms must be completed and returned by that date and in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the Tender Offer Document. The Tender Offer is, by means of this advertisement, extended to all persons to whom the Tender Offer Document may not be despatched who hold, or who are entitled to have unconditionally allotted or issued to them, Ordinary Shares in UDO Holdings plc. Copies of the Tender Offer Document and Ordinary Shares in UDO Holdings plc are available from: New Issues Department, ING plc, Room 200, 34 Bankers Quay, Birmingham, B4 6AN. Once submitted, a Tender Form will be irrevocable.

Credit Lyonnais Securities is acting on behalf of UDO Holdings plc in this transaction and will not be responsible to anyone other than UDO Holdings plc for providing advice in relation to this transaction.

Shareholders of the Company on the register on 15 August 1997 will remain entitled to receive the second interim dividend for the year ended 31st July 1997 of 7.75p (net) per Ordinary Share on Ordinary Shares repurchased under the Tender Offer.

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Jobs and US economy offer road maps to duration of the boom

How long can the boom continue? The question is of great importance to financial markets as much of the present buoyancy of equities and sterling is predicated on a combination of continuing decent economic growth into next year and beyond.

A handful of commentators are showing awareness, at least, of the possibility of a sharp downturn next year particularly strong. But the markets have not priced much of such potential bad news into their expectations. Are there any road maps?

Well, there is one. This is the performance of the US economy. Not only is it in a more advanced position in the cycle - its recovery started about a year earlier - but the strength of the currency has been sustained for longer and unemployment has fallen further. Looking at the US is by no means a perfect proxy for the UK, for a number of unconnected reasons. Nevertheless it can give some pointers.

Perhaps the most useful one is unemployment. The lower that can be driven without wage inflation the longer the boom can continue, and in the UK more than the US (because of our more substantial welfare payments) the quicker public finances can come back to balance.

In the US, unemployment has been below 6 per cent for three years. This year it has fallen from 5.4 per cent in January to 5.0 per cent now. It may - and this is the really interesting bit - drop to 4 per cent in the next year, raising the possibility that the new "trading range" for unemployment in the US will be 4-6 per cent through the economic cycle, levels in effect back to those of the 1950s and 1960s.

Why so low? Some work by the economics team at HSBC focuses on the relationship between the unemployment

count and participation rates. As you can see from the graph, participation rates rose pretty steadily right through the economic cycles of the last 12 years, pausing in the early 1990s when unemployment rose, but resuming its rise once unemployment began to fall again.

However this overall rise has entirely been the result of more women in the workforce. The participation rate for women in the early 1980s was around 52 per cent; now it is 60 per cent. Meanwhile the rate for men has fallen from 78 to 75 per cent. The labour force has been expanding - but mainly because strong demand for labour has pulled many more women into work.

This rise has been particularly noticeable in the past year. HSBC points out that had female participation rates remained at the level of June 1996, unemployment would already be down to 4 per cent, and presumably the economy would be under more strain. This raises the obvious question: how high can female participation rates rise before they hit a natural ceiling?

Anyone who has been to the US in recent months (or is zipping over for a holiday now) will be aware of how hard Americans are working.

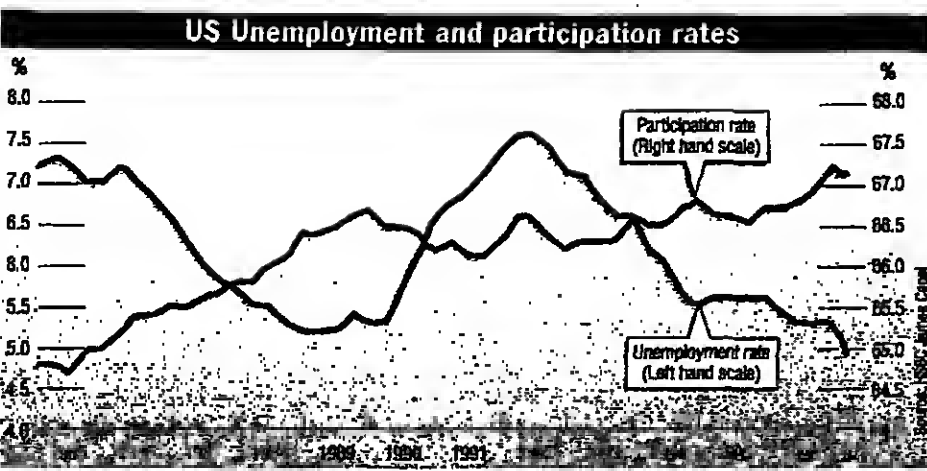
A lot of the people in the service industries - behind counters on airline desks, on checkouts at supermarkets - seem to be past normal retirement age. Demand for labour has pulled many retirees back into work, perhaps part-time.



Hamish McRae

There could be a sharp downturn next year, particularly with a strong pound. But markets have not priced much potential bad news into expectations

vice industries - behind counters on airline desks, on checkouts at supermarkets - seem to be past normal retirement age. Demand for labour has pulled many retirees back into work, perhaps part-time.



And there are self-evidently many women in the workforce: the UK has high female participation rates by continental European standards, but not as high as the States.

But there must be some limit to the rise in female participation. The question then is whether there is an impact on male participation, reversing the trend of the last 15 years. There ought to be, but it has not shown in the figures. If there is not, then at some point soon the US hits the level at which employers bid up the price to get people, interest rates go up, and the cycle is reversed. The danger here would be that once wages do start to move up, they could move up sharply: the rise in wage rates would be the precursor not just to higher interest rates, but perhaps to recession too.

That is all in the future. What are the lessons for the UK? We have the advantage over the US that we can learn from their experience.

Intuitively I would expect there to be just as much potential here for a rise in participation rates as in the US, indeed perhaps more so, for a number of reasons.

For a start, despite recent growth in the workforce, the number of people in jobs now is roughly a million lower than it was at the height of the 1980s

boom. True, that was unsustainable. Nevertheless continued economic growth ought to be able to suck more people back into jobs. Remember that our participation rates are lower than theirs.

Next, we have learnt a lot during the last decade about employing part-time labour: how to train it, how to use it efficiently, how to make it attractive. In fact we have incorporated into our labour practices many of the lessons learnt from the US.

Perhaps most important of all, there seems to be a change in the climate of opinion about the "normality" of having a job. This follows a change in the structure of unemployment. The very high regional unemployment rates of the 1980s economic cycle seemed to condemn many people who happened to live in the wrong part of the country to a lifetime of unemployment.

In the early 1990s cycle, while overall unemployment levels were nearly as high, at least the pain was more evened out. And now some areas (like Scotland) which have historically had relatively high unemployment, are below the national average.

Serious pockets of unemployment still exist, but they seem more localised now than they did in the previous cycle. Long-term unemployment remains a grave problem; but it is being tackled.

All this is hopeful, for quite suddenly, if US experience is any guide, there is the possibility of getting unemployment down quite close to the levels of the 1960s - or rather at US 1960s levels, not UK. The more that the workforce expands, the slower the fall in unemployment for any given level of economic activity. Still, before the unemployment cycle turns up again, it is at least plausible that it could dip below 5 per cent, something that would have seemed a remarkable achievement five years ago.

A 'quite remarkable' chance for City punters

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Kevin Keegan: Joining the ranks of charity fundraisers

You, too, can dribble past Kevin Keegan, pop it on the head to Glenn Hoddle and scry down Steve Coppell. Just ring Jane Oldfield on 0171 248 2424 and you can sign up for a celebrity football match on Sunday 7 September which will have enough stars to satisfy the most imaginative of Fantasy Footballers.

There is a catch. The soccer tournament is in aid of the European Children's Trust, and the 30 places available for City players are being offered to firms or individuals at a minimum cost of £1,000.

It's all for a good cause - the Trust raises money for Romanian orphans, and is branching out to do similar work in Moldova and other parts of Eastern Europe.

As well as the famous footballers such as Ray Wilkins, players were include members of the EastEnders cast, led by "Michael", the manager of Albert Square's market, as played by Russell Floyd.

A league table will be compiled from the matches played, and some of the action will be filmed by Sky TV. The venue is yet to be announced. If you simply want to make a donation phone 01773 299 333. Otherwise, ring the other number and give those boots an airing. "Quite remarkable," as they say.

Football seems to be everywhere now that the season has started again, and the money men aren't far behind. I hear that Newcastle United have signed up Alan Parker and his chums at Brunswick to spin the Muggies' story in the City. Watch out for mentions of Alan Shearer's ankle in market reports everywhere.

Malcolm Rifkind may not quite have realised what he walked into when he accepted the job as director of international strategy at global natural resources company BHP a fortnight ago. The former Foreign secretary was following a long line of for-

diplomatic skills to swing into action and effect a reconciliation? Or a settlement at least.

I hear that Bruce Gyngell, joint managing director of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees (YTT), is plotting his exit from the company following its takeover by Granada. This of course brings up the vexed question of a pay-off, and I understand that Mr Gyngell is currently negotiating a package which will include his existing £370,000 worth of stock options in YTT plus one year's salary, or around £320,000. Nice one, Bruce. He doesn't appear to have any new jobs in sight yet, and is just enjoying the summer in his cottage in Dorset.

Salomon Brothers have just faxed me 141 blank sheets of paper. What's behind this attempt to wipe out the remaining rainforests? "We've had a problem," says a Salomon spokesman with admirable understatement. The computer which automatically sends out research circulars and the like went a bit mad. It was meant to send out just one page, a critique of Credit Suisse's results by Salomon banking analyst John D. Leonard. Ah, the joys of new technology.

I hear that Janet Dyson is not leaving the European drugs research team at Merrell Lynch, contrary to what we said last week. It must be the heat, I'm on firmer ground I think when I say that Richard Sharp, 32, has returned to NatWest Markets as global head of Pan European Sales Trading from Merrill Lynch. He joined Merills from what was then County NatWest in 1992, so he already knows the firm well.

John Willcock

Foreign Exchange Rates as at 11/08/97

| Country | Spot | 1 month | 3 months | D-Mark | Spot | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| US | 1.5784 | 20.16 | 59.56 | 1000 | 36.31 | 36.31 | 36.31 |
| Canada | 2.9650 | 71.66 | 208.20 | 1393 | 36.31 | 36.31 | 36.31 |
| Germany | 2.9650 | 71.66 | 208.20 | 1393 | 36.31 | 36.31 | 36.31 |
| France | 5.8581 | 340.320 | 920.580 | 62456 | 116.13 | 358.348 | 33704 |
| Italy | 28827 | 62.14 | 16.07 | 16073 | 174.129 | 465.480 | 62.551 |
| Spain | 16.8291 | 106.10 | 307.330 | 16588 | 32.51 | 62.501 | 126.581 |
| Belgium | 14.978 | 35.31 | 105.10 | 10610 | 14.15 | 46.47 | 126.581 |
| Denmark | 6.0421 | 21.16 | 59.51 | 38280 | 75.74 | 229.224 | 205.73 |
| Netherlands | 11.1534 | 340.320 | 920.580 | 1004.49 | 116.13 | 358.348 | 33704 |
| Sweden | 32.558 | 106.98 | 319.304 | 20881 | 43.42 | 126.127 | 126.581 |
| Australia | 1.0994 | 6.2 | 22.16 | 14358 | 6.7 | 22.16 | 14358 |
| Japan | 11.8436 | 106.10 | 307.330 | 16588 | 32.51 | 62.501 | 126.581 |
| South Africa | 24.634 | 37.26 | 116.97 | 156.39 | 5.4 | 23.21 | 64.390 |
| Switzerland | 12.527 | 310.240 | 800.600 | 79363 | 33.88 | 289.275 | 42927 |
| Hong Kong | 2.3458 | 106.10 | 307.330 | 16588 | 32.51 | 62.501 | 126.581 |
| New Zealand | 2.2131 | 29.36 | 87.77 | 15732 | 7.9 | 31.33 | 108.490 |
| Saudi Arabia | 5.9567 | 37.26 | 116.97 | 156.39 | 5.4 | 23.21 | 64.390 |
| Singapore | 2.3376 | 40.44 | 123.41 | 1480 | 21.16 | 59.51 | 38280 |

Other Spot Rates as at 11/08/97

| Country | Sterling | Dollar | Country | Sterling | Dollar |
|-----------|----------|--------|--------------|----------|---------|
| Argentina | 15780 | 0.0935 | Nigeria | 31572 | 83.4000 |
| Australia | 2.3458 | 0.0935 | Poland | 63.0500 | 40.4795 |
| Brazil | 1.7238 | 1.0000 | Portugal | 45.6273 | 28.9000 |
| China | 13.0678 | 0.2257 | Russia | 25.532 | 39.408 |
| Denmark | 5.3257 | 0.3340 | South Africa | 97.125 | 58.9000 |
| France | 3.2476 | 0.3340 | Sweden | 45.6273 | 28.9000 |
| Germany | 3.4657 | 0.3340 | Switzerland | 45.6273 | 28.9000 |
| Greece | 45.6273 | 0.3340 | UAE | 5.7597 | 36.735 |
| India | 56.5328 | 0.3340 | | | |
| Italy | 5.8581 | 0.3340 | | | |
| Kuwait | 4.0478 | 0.3340 | | | |

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; subtract from spot rate
Rate quoted low to high are at a premium; add to spot rate
*Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals.
For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033.
Calls cost 50p per minute.

Interest Rates as at 11/08/97

| UK | 700% | Germany | 250% | Japan | 850% |
|-------------|-------|----------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Base Rate | 5.00% | Discount | 4.50% | Prime | 5.50% |
| Interbank | 3.00% | Discount | 4.50% | Discount | 5.50% |
| Discount | 6.25% | Prime | 4.75% | 10-Day Repo | 5.25% |
| Netherlands | 3.00% | Discount | 3.25% | Sweden | 4.00% |
| Australia | 3.00% | Discount | 3.25% | Switzerland | 1.00% |

Bond Yields as at 11/08/97

| Country | Yr | Yield | 10yr | Yield | Country | Yr | Yield | 10yr | Yield |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| UK | 7.0% | 7.01 | 7.26% | 7.26 | Netherlands | 2.2% | 4.71 | 5.75% | 5.82 |
| US | 8.0% | 6.10 | 6.25% | 6.32 | Spain | 7.8% | 5.57 | 7.25% | 5.94 |
| France | 6.25% | 1.30 | 2.30% | 2.24 | Italy | 6.2% | 6.30 | 6.75% | 6.85 |
| Germany | 6.0% | 6.15 | 6.75% | 6.56 | Belgium | 8.0% | 4.55 | 6.25% | 5.70 |
| Sweden | 4.0% | 4.85 | 5.0% | 5.38 | Switzerland | 1.0% | 1.30 | 6.50% | 5.75 |
| Denmark | 3.25% | 4.75 | 5.50% | 5.82 | ECU | 6.0% | 5.13 | 5.50% | 5.98 |

Money Market Rates as at 11/08/97

| Instrument | Overnight | 1 Month | 3 Months | 6 Months | 1 Year |
|------------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| Interbank | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% |
| Discount | 6.25% | 6.25% | 6.25% | 6.25% | 6.25% |
| ECU | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% |

Tourist Rates as at 11/08/97

| Country | £ Buys | £ Buys | £ Buys |
|-----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Australia | 2.1150 | 7.275 | 2.4000 |
| Austria | 20.3300 | 2.8875 | 11.8000 |
| Belgium | 29.8700 | 464.2500 | 22.0000 |
| Canada | 2.1150 | 11.7000 | 11.7000 |
| Denmark | 0.8455 | 1.0725 | 12.5075 |
| France | 11.0750 | 284.0000 | 2.3500 |
| Germany | 3.2450 | 2.1710 | 2.0000 |
| Italy | 3.7250 | 0.0250 | 1.5500 |

Life Financial Futures as at 11/08/97

| Contract | High/Low | Settlement | Open |
|------------|----------|------------|--------|
| Long Oil | 114.08 | 115.08 | 115.08 |
| Short Oil | 115.08 | 114.08 | 114.08 |
| Long Gold | 115.08 | 115.08 | 115.08 |
| Short Gold | 115.08 | 115.08 | 115.08 |

Life FTSE 100 Index Option as at 11/08/97

| Series | Settlement | High/Low | Open |
|----------|------------|----------|-------|
| FTSE 100 | 4650 | 4650 | 4650 |
| FTSE 250 | 17781 | 17781 | 17781 |

Energy as at 11/08/97

| Instrument | High/Low | Settlement | Open |
|------------|----------|------------|--------|
| Oil | 114.08 | 115.08 | 115.08 |
| Gas | 115.08 | 114.08 | 114.08 |

Commodity Indices as at 11/08/97

| Index | High/Low | Settlement | Open |
|-------|----------|------------|--------|
| Oil | 114.08 | 115.08 | 115.08 |
| Gold | 115.08 | 115.08 | 115.08 |

Unit Trust Prices

| Unit | Price | Unit | Price |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Unit 1 | 1.00 | Unit 2 | 1.00 |

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Industrial Metals as at 11/08/97

| Volume | Price | Volume | Price |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Aluminum | 113815 | Aluminum | 113815 |
| Copper | 42888 | Copper | 42888 |

Precious Metals as at 11/08/97

| Volume | Price | Volume | Price |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Gold | 348 | Gold | 348 |
| Silver | 175 | Silver | 175 |

Agricultural as at 11/08/97

| Volume | Price | Volume | Price |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Wheat | 348 | Wheat | 348 |
| Barley | 175 | Barley | 175 |

Other Softs as at 11/08/97

| Volume | Price | Volume | Price |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Wool | 348 | Wool | 348 |
| Soybeans | 175 | Soybeans | 175 |

London Metal Exchange

| Volume | Price | Volume | Price |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Aluminum | 113815 | Aluminum | 113815 |
| Copper | 42888 | Copper | 42888 |

Commodity Prices

| Volume | Price | Volume | Price |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Oil | 114.08 | Oil | 114.08 |
| Gold | 115.08 | Gold | 115.08 |

Unit Trust Prices

| Unit | Price | Unit | Price |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Unit 1 | 1.00 | Unit 2 | 1.00 |

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FINANCIAL TIMES Information

London Metal Exchange

| Volume | Price | Volume | Price |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|
|--------|-------|--------|-------|

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INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

THE INDEPENDENT

The new league season is now underway and again Manchester United are the team to beat. Alex Ferguson's men are the bookmakers' favourites for the championship – but would you pick Teddy Sheringham in your team?

Chelsea can be expected to mount a strong challenge as can Arsenal, with Mark Overmars their most expensive recruit. Liverpool and Newcastle United will also have a say in the destination of the title.

Can you keep up with the changes? The Independent and Independent on Sunday supported by Philips EcoTone lightbulbs the energy savers are giving you the chance. With a budget of £40 million, can you come up with a team to top them all in the Premiership this season?

HOW TO ENTER.

Firstly you will need to pick your team formation, of course there's your goalkeeper plus you have a choice of four formations for the others in your team.

FORMATION A. 4-4-2
4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

FORMATION B. 4-3-3
4 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 3 Strikers

FORMATION C. 5-3-2
5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

FORMATION D. 3-5-2
3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

Once you have chosen your formation and team name pick your team of 11 players and 1 manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and their total value must not go over £40 million. Having made a note of your team dial our registration hotline. Please try to use a tone telephone – one which makes tone noises when you dial, although pulse telephones can be used to register your team.



THE ULTIMATE PRIZE

The overall winner, the manager who at the end of the season accrues more points than any other will win a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. With a companion, they will see all the action of a quarter-final and semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's home internationals at Wembley.

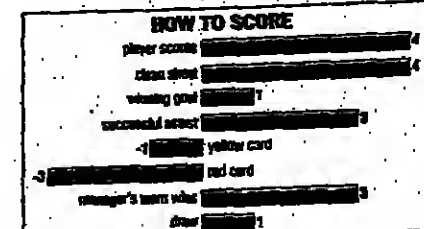
Register today, call:

UK 0930-525-260 (tone)

UK 0930-525-259 (pulse)

Republic of Ireland: 1550 131 659

UK calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Max. duration call length 6.5 minutes.



Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point. If a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

If you would like to know more about Philips' range of lighting products please call 0151-606 1560. Fantasy Football enquiries cannot be taken on this number.

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

| CODE | PLAYER | TEAM | VALUE (£m) | CODE | PLAYER | TEAM | VALUE (£m) | CODE | PLAYER | TEAM | VALUE (£m) | CODE | PLAYER | TEAM | VALUE (£m) |
|--------------------|--------------|------|------------|-----------------|-------------|------|------------|-----------------|--------------|------|------------|-----------------|-------------|------|------------|
| GOALKEEPERS | | | | MIDFIELD | | | | STRIKERS | | | | MANAGERS | | | |
| 500 | Seaman | Ars | 4.0 | 455 | Cox | Bol | 2.5 | 560 | Lundekvam | Sou | 1.2 | 679 | Sharpe | Lee | 3.5 |
| 303 | Lukic | Ars | 1.0 | 456 | Elliot | Bol | 3.0 | 563 | Scaltes | Tot | 3.4 | 845 | Whelan | Cov | 3.0 |
| 304 | Manninger | Ars | 3.0 | 457 | Fairclough | Bol | 2.0 | 564 | Campbell | Tot | 4.0 | 846 | Huckery | Cov | 3.5 |
| 305 | Bosnich | AV | 4.0 | 458 | Taggart | Bol | 2.5 | 565 | Calderwood | Tot | 2.9 | 847 | Solivert | Cov | 1.5 |
| 306 | Oakes | AV | 1.5 | 459 | Bergsson | Bol | 1.5 | 566 | Austin | Tot | 2.2 | 848 | Lightbourne | Cov | 1.5 |
| 307 | Watson | Bar | 1.0 | 460 | Duberry | Che | 3.0 | 567 | Edinburgh | Tot | 1.6 | 849 | Dyer | CP | 2.0 |
| 308 | Lessie | Bar | 1.0 | 463 | Petrescu | Che | 3.0 | 568 | Carr | Tot | 1.2 | 850 | Freedman | CP | 2.0 |
| 309 | Flowers | Bla | 5.2 | 464 | Lamhoude | Che | 3.0 | 569 | Mabbutt | Tot | 1.5 | 853 | Ndahi | CP | 1.0 |
| 330 | Filan | Bla | 1.5 | 465 | Lehoucq | Che | 5.0 | 570 | Dicks | WH | 2.7 | 854 | Shipperley | CP | 2.0 |
| 333 | Branagan | Bol | 1.2 | 466 | Sinclair | Che | 2.5 | 573 | Rieper | WH | 3.0 | 855 | Ward | Der | 2.5 |
| 334 | De Goeij | Che | 1.0 | 467 | Dalish | Cov | 2.7 | 574 | Hall | WH | 1.5 | 856 | Sturridge | Der | 5.0 |
| 335 | Grodas | Che | 1.0 | 468 | Shaw | Cov | 2.2 | 575 | Potts | WH | 2.5 | 857 | Wanchope | Der | 3.0 |
| 336 | Ogrizovic | Cov | 2.2 | 469 | Burrows | Cov | 2.2 | 576 | Ferdinand | WH | 2.2 | 858 | Ferguson | Eve | 6.5 |
| 337 | Hedman | Cov | 1.0 | 470 | Haworth | Cov | 1.5 | 577 | Impey | WH | 2.0 | 859 | Barmby | Eve | 4.5 |
| 338 | Nash | CP | 1.0 | 473 | Edworthy | CP | 2.0 | 578 | Turner | WH | 2.0 | 860 | Deane | Lee | 3.0 |
| 339 | Day | CP | 1.0 | 474 | Gordon | CP | 2.0 | 579 | Perry | Wim | 4.0 | 863 | Lilley | Lee | 1.5 |
| 340 | Poom | Der | 1.2 | 475 | Muscat | CP | 1.0 | 580 | Cunningham | Wim | 1.5 | 864 | Hasslebank | Lee | 3.0 |
| 343 | Hoult | Der | 1.6 | 476 | Tuttle | CP | 2.0 | 583 | Thatcher | Wim | 1.5 | 865 | Claridge | Lee | 3.5 |
| 344 | Southall | Eve | 3.0 | 477 | Linighan | CP | 2.0 | 584 | McAllister | Wim | 1.5 | 866 | Heskey | Lee | 5.5 |
| 345 | Gerrard | Eve | 1.5 | 478 | Roberts | CP | 3.0 | 585 | Kimble | Wim | 1.5 | 867 | Fowler | Lee | 9.5 |
| 346 | Martyn | Lee | 3.3 | 479 | Hredresson | CP | 1.0 | | | | | 868 | Berger | Lee | 4.0 |
| 347 | Beeney | Lee | 1.2 | 480 | Stimac | Der | 3.3 | | | | | 869 | Owen | Lee | 2.5 |
| 348 | Keller | Lee | 2.5 | 483 | C Powell | Der | 1.8 | 600 | Platt | Ars | 2.5 | 870 | Scholes | Man | 6.0 |
| 349 | Poole | Lee | 1.5 | 484 | Laursen | Der | 1.5 | 603 | Parlour | Ars | 2.4 | 873 | Cole | Man | 6.2 |
| 350 | James | Liv | 3.5 | 485 | Erano | Der | 2.5 | 605 | Vieira | Ars | 4.5 | 874 | Solskjaer | Man | 7.0 |
| 353 | Warner | Liv | 1.0 | 486 | Phelan | Eve | 1.9 | 606 | Overmars | Ars | 6.0 | 875 | Sheringham | Man | 5.0 |
| 354 | Schmeichel | Man | 5.5 | 487 | Short | Eve | 2.0 | 607 | M Rodriguez | Ars | 2.0 | 876 | Newland | Man | 2.0 |
| 355 | Van Der Gouw | Man | 1.2 | 488 | Watson | Eve | 3.0 | 608 | Taylor | AV | 1.9 | 877 | Shearer | New | 10.0 |
| 356 | Given | New | 2.5 | 489 | Unsworth | Eve | 3.5 | 609 | Townsend | AV | 3.2 | 878 | Asprilla | New | 7.4 |
| 357 | Hislop | New | 2.5 | 490 | Hinchcliffe | Eve | 4.0 | 630 | Draper | AV | 4.1 | 879 | Ferdinand | New | 5.0 |
| 358 | Pressman | SW | 3.0 | 493 | Bilic | Eve | 3.6 | 633 | Marcelle | Bar | 2.0 | 880 | Tomasson | New | 4.0 |
| 359 | Taylor | Sou | 1.8 | 494 | Kelly | Lee | 2.5 | 634 | Bullock | Bar | 1.2 | 883 | Gudjonsson | New | 2.0 |
| 360 | Beasant | Sou | 1.0 | 495 | Wetherall | Lee | 2.5 | 635 | Redfern | Bar | 1.5 | 884 | Humphreys | SW | 2.5 |
| 363 | Walker | Tot | 3.4 | 496 | Molenaar | Lee | 2.5 | 636 | Eaden | Bar | 1.2 | 885 | Booth | SW | 3.5 |
| 364 | Bardsen | Tot | 1.0 | 497 | Rodriguez | Lee | 2.5 | 637 | Tinkler | Bar | 1.0 | 886 | Hirst | SW | 3.5 |
| 365 | Miklosko | WH | 1.5 | 498 | Robertson | Lee | 2.2 | 638 | Donis | Bla | 3.0 | 887 | Le Tissier | Sou | 7.0 |
| 366 | Sullivan | Wim | 2.7 | 499 | Walsh | Lee | 2.2 | 639 | Wilcox | Bla | 3.0 | 888 | Evans | Sou | 1.5 |
| | | | | 500 | Whitlow | Lee | 1.3 | 640 | McKinlay | Bla | 2.2 | 889 | Ostenstad | Sou | 3.2 |
| | | | | 503 | Elliot | Lee | 1.2 | 643 | Sherwood | Bla | 3.4 | 890 | Armstrong | Tot | 5.9 |
| | | | | 504 | Wais | Lee | 1.6 | 644 | Fliccroft | Bla | 3.0 | 893 | Iversen | Tot | 4.0 |
| | | | | 505 | Wright | Liv | 3.0 | 645 | Franssen | Bol | 1.5 | 894 | Hartson | WH | 5.0 |
| | | | | 506 | Ruddock | Liv | 3.0 | 646 | Thompson | Bol | 2.8 | 895 | Kitson | WH | 3.5 |
| | | | | 507 | Harkness | Liv | 1.2 | 647 | Pollack | Bol | 1.2 | 896 | Holdsworth | Wim | 3.5 |
| | | | | 508 | Kvarme | Liv | 2.5 | 648 | Sellars | Bol | 1.5 | 897 | Ekoku | Wim | 4.0 |
| | | | | 509 | Bjorneby | Liv | 2.5 | 649 | Gullitt | Che | 4.4 | 898 | Gayle | Wim | 4.0 |
| | | | | 530 | Matteo | Liv | 3.0 | 650 | Di Matteo | Che | 5.0 | 899 | Euell | Wim | 1.5 |
| | | | | 533 | McAteer | Liv | 3.7 | 653 | Wise | Che | 3.7 | | | | |
| | | | | 534 | G Neville | Man | 4.2 | 654 | Newton | Che | 2.4 | | | | |
| | | | | 535 | P Neville | Man | 4.2 | 655 | P Hughes | Che | 1.0 | | | | |
| | | | | 536 | Irwin | Man | 2.5 | 656 | Baheyaro | Che | 3.0 | | | | |
| | | | | 537 | Pallister | Man | 3.5 | 657 | Telfer | Cov | 1.8 | | | | |
| | | | | 540 | Silva | Man | 3.5 | 658 | Richardson | Cov | 2.4 | | | | |
| | | | | 543 | Albert | New | 4.1 | 659 | McAllister | Cov | 3.0 | | | | |
| | | | | 544 | Howey | New | 3.7 | 660 | Salako | Cov | 2.4 | | | | |
| | | | | 545 | Peacock | New | 3.0 | 663 | Johansen | Cov | 2.0 | | | | |
| | | | | 546 | Barton | New | 3.3 | 664 | Simpson | Der | 1.7 | | | | |
| | | | | 547 | Beresford | New | 2.2 | 665 | Kanakov | Der | 3.0 | | | | |
| | | | | 548 | Blondeau | SW | 1.9 | 666 | D-Powell | Der | 1.2 | | | | |
| | | | | 549 | Nolan | SW | 1.9 | 667 | Van Der Laan | Der | 1.6 | | | | |
| | | | | 550 | Atherton | SW | 2.5 | 668 | Dailly | Der | 1.2 | | | | |
| | | | | 553 | Walker | SW | 2.5 | 669 | Hunt | Der | 2.0 | | | | |
| | | | | 554 | Stefanovic | SW | 1.6 | 670 | Parkinson | Eve | 1.8 | | | | |
| | | | | 555 | Newsome | SW | 1.5 | 673 | Grant | Eve | 2.2 | | | | |
| | | | | 556 | Monkou | Sou | 1.7 | 674 | Farrelly | Eve | 2.0 | | | | |
| | | | | 557 | Dodd | Sou | 2.5 | 675 | Stuart | Eve | 2.5 | | | | |
| | | | | 558 | Benali | Sou | 1.5 | 676 | Speed | Eve | 2.7 | | | | |
| | | | | 559 | Van Gobel | Sou | 1.5 | 677 | Bowyer | Lee | 3.0 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 678 | Wallace | Lee | 1.8 | | | | |

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Only entries made on the Independent Fantasy Football website will be valid.
2. For your Fantasy Football team selection to be valid, you must use the official list of players published in the Independent Fantasy Football magazine.
3. Entries must consist of 11 players and 1 manager. The total cost of the team, including the manager, must not exceed £40 million.

4. FA Cup Premiership footballers have been assigned a fictional transfer value by our experts which represent current ability. There will be no correspondence relating to players or their fictional value.
5. Independent Fantasy Football results are calculated on all matches in the FA Cup Premiership. Points are awarded according to the scoring system described in How to Score.
6. In the event that a goalkeeper or a defender is substituted, the player substituted and the substitutes are both deemed to have played in the match in question. Therefore, if there is a clean sheet both players shall be credited.

7. The Independent and Independent on Sunday overall prize of a trip to the World Cup in France will go to the team manager whose total score exceeds that of any other manager. If there is a tie, a simple draw will take place.
8. One pair of tickets to see England play at Wembley will be awarded to the manager whose team's points exceed that of any other manager on a monthly basis, each month running between the dates specified below. In the event of a tie a simple draw will take place. The monthly games shall run: Month 1: 01/09/97 to 01/10/97 Month 2: 02/10/97 to 02/11/97 Month 3: 03/11/97 to 03/12/97 Month 4: 04/12/97 to 04/01/98 Month 5: 05/01/98 to 05/02/98 Month 6: 06/02/98 to 06/03/98 Month 7: 07/03/98 to 07/04/98 Month 8: 08/04/98 to 08/05/98 Month 9: 09/05/98 to 09/06/98 Month 10: 10/06/98 to 10/07/98 Month 11: 11/07/98 to 11/08/98 Month 12: 12/08/98 to 12/09/98

9. Only FA Cup Premiership matches apply. If a player is transferred out of the Premiership or is unable to play for any other reason, that player will not score whilst they are away from the Premiership. Points will be awarded for each valid team registration. You must keep your FA Cup Premiership team registration. Proof of registration must be accepted as proof of entry.
10. Closing date for telephone entries is midnight on 20th August, 1997.
11. All points scored during all Premiership matches count towards the team manager's total score for the season and the final top prize.
12. Team selections must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date.

13. Team selections must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date.
14. Team selections must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date.
15. Team selections must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date.

16. Team selections must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date.
17. Team selections must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date.
18. Team selections must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date.

19. Team selections must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date.
20. Team selections must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date. Entries must be made by 11.00pm on the day of the closing date.

Let's make things better

PHILIPS

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Britain found wanting by parochial attitude

At the opening ceremony of the 36th Walker Cup, the Union Flag got stuck at half-mast and that is where it should have stayed for the weekend. The history of the event is for those on the eastern side of the Atlantic to indulge in the very occasional almighty celebration party, or quietly forget all about it. Last weekend's match followed the general trend.

Two wonderful highs of victory, at Peachtree in 1989, for the only time on American soil, and at Royal Portlough two years ago, almost shed the match of its undesired sobriquet of the Walker Cup. But the last two visits by Great Britain and Ireland to the United States have produced the two biggest thrashings in a long list of one-sided affairs. At Interlachen in 1993, the US won 19-5 and at Quaker Ridge this time it was 18-6.

As well as the Americans played, they were not led by a major new talent as they have been in the last three matches: Phil Mickelson in 1991, Justin Leonard in 1993 and Tiger Woods, albeit in a losing effort, in 1995. In a search for a star,

Andy Farrell believes that another defeat in golf's Walker Cup might be avoided by bringing Europe on board

you have to look to John Harris, who won all four of his matches and, as at Interlachen, secured the winning point.

In three Walker Cups, Harris now has the superb record of 10 wins and one loss, while he is unbeaten in six singles matches, the best record in the competition's history.

The visitors never recovered from losing the first morning foursomes 4-0, and they won only one foursome on Sunday morning - which at least kept the match alive going into the final session. However, it was over as a contest barely 20 minutes into NBC's coverage of the final afternoon. If the network executives were less than impressed, so were the citizens of Westchester County and New York City.

Limited galleries of maybe 3,000 people each day watched the event, while others were put off by the high ticket prices. At \$55 (£35) a day, they did not

compare favourably with a season ticket of \$225 for seven days at this week's USPGA Championship at nearby Winged Foot watching Woods, Leonard, Ernie Els et al.

When a media official of the United States Golf Association tumbles to the anachronism of trying to run a major international event as a garden party, you know sense can penetrate the deepest reaches. But the match will continue in accordance with the traditions of 75 years of history.

The USGA have profits they do not know what to do with from their contract with NBC for the US Open, a deal which also requires the network to cover its amateur events.

There was at least hope for the future in the form of Justin Rose, who a week after his 17th birthday came out of the match with two points. Only Steven Young could match him, while the amateur champion, Craig Watson, claimed one and a half points. "Justin has done himself a great deal of credit," Brown said. "He will be a star to watch in the future."

There have always been stated as a reason not to bring in the best Continental amateurs. Jose-Maria Olazabal and Per-Ulrik Johansson are just two who could have graced past matches, while Spain are the current European amateur team champions. The R&A are the governing body for every country in the world save for northern America, so why stop at the boundaries of Great Britain and Ireland?

"I'm a traditionalist and I don't want to think about that," the Britain and Ireland captain, Clive Brown, said. "This is more than just a golf match. It's a celebration of the relationship between the USGA and the R&A, who between them govern world golf."

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Steven Young and Barclay Howard line up a putt during Sunday's foursomes in New York. Photograph: Allsport

Els falters to let in Singh

Vijay Singh, of Fiji, fired a final-round six-under-par 66 to overtake a faltering Ernie Els for a four-stroke victory in the Buick open on Sunday in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

Singh began the day four shots behind Els, who had a three-shot lead and appeared set for his third victory of the season. Tiger Woods shot a 68 and finished tied for eighth.

Freer-for-all over Dettori

Frankie Dettori has taken the role, once again, of a Christmas cracker and it appears that John Gosden has pulled his way to the trinket of the jockey's booking. The Italian's services were required by the Newmarket trainer and Godolphin for Saturday's Geoffrey Freer Stakes at Newbury, but the special need of the former has swung the argument.

Gosden saddles Shantou, who runs like the wind for Dettori and runs like he's got wind for anyone else. In these circumstances, Godolphin are happy to let their shared contract rider fulfil the other half of his obligation with Gosden and his St Leger winner of last year.

Godolphin's runner is likely to be Fredapio, who has an alternative engagement in Germany on Sunday. Their other entry, Classic Cliche, is destined for the Prix Kergerlay at Deauville, where he is likely to meet another of Saturday's defectors, Persian Punch. Others who have not cried off from Newbury yet number among them the Peter Chapple-Hyam pairing of Royal Court and Panama City. The 11 acceptors also include Strategic Choice (Paul Cook), Dushyantor (Henry Cecil), Further Flight (Barry Hills), Katta (Robert Armstrong) and King Sound (Gosden).

Richard Edmondson reports on a trainer's determination to get the best out of Shantou

Classic Cliche's next performance will determine whether he continues on his path to the Melbourne Cup, where he would be the first horse to transport the Godolphin Royal blue livery in Australia. The five-year-old played possum before finishing well into second behind Double Trigger in the Goodwood Cup last time, an effort that originally sickened connections. They feel better now.

"He's the ideal horse for the Melbourne Cup because he's shown he's got the speed for a mile and a half from his runs in King George," Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said yesterday. "You need that over two miles in Aus-

tralia, because the out-and-out stayers that go there are too slow.

"The horse's whole year has been campaigned towards that race and nothing has changed just because he was beaten at Goodwood. In fact, that wasn't such a bad run when you sit back and look at it. We fancied him very strongly going into the race because he had done so well since Royal Ascot. When you expect something to win like that and they get turned over maybe you should sit back for a couple of hours and think about it. We need to see how he runs this time."

There is confidence, too, behind Persian Punch for the Prix Kergerlay. Earlier this

Ryan in anxious wait for Dip

Three jockeys are in the running for the ride on Derby winner Benny The Dip in the Juddmonte International Stakes at York next week. The colt's trainer, John Gosden, said yesterday that a decision would be taken at the weekend.

Willie Ryan, who rode the colt at Epsom and when second in the Eclipse, Olivier Peslier,

who landed the Dante on Benny The Dip, and Frankie Dettori, subject to Sheikh Mohammed's requirements, are being considered.

Gosden said he will be discussing the situation with Benny The Dip's American-based owner, Landon Knight. He added that Ryan will partner the colt in work on Saturday.

Outbreak of Bimsey whimsey

Bimsey was yesterday the subject of some sizeable wagers for next week's Ebor Handicap at York with Coral, including one bet of £1,000 at 16-1. Coral promptly shortened the Reg Akehurst-trained runner to 14-1 from 16-1.

Tote, the race sponsors, reported money for Luca

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Dazzling Stone (Bath 2.30) NB: Passing Strangers (Bath 2.30)

Cumani's Puce (cut to 8-1 from 10-1) after the trainer confirmed he a runner.

Martin Pipe teamed up with jockey Tony McCoy to claim three of Worcester's six races yesterday, at accumulative odds of around 5-1.

Pipe's hopes of a quartet of winners from his four runners were dashed when Fleet Cadet fended poorly in the novice handicap chase and was pulled up five from home.

RACING'S FUTURES MARKET

| Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (1m 4f) | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| Horse (Trainer) | Corral | William Hill | Ladbrokes | Total |
| Hallefleur (A. O'Brien) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Passing Strangers (A. O'Brien) | 3-1 | 3-1 | 3-1 | 3-1 |
| Strategic Choice (A. O'Brien) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Strategic Choice (A. O'Brien) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Strategic Choice (A. O'Brien) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Strategic Choice (A. O'Brien) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Strategic Choice (A. O'Brien) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Strategic Choice (A. O'Brien) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |

| 1998 2,000 Guineas (1m) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| Horse (Trainer) | Corral | William Hill | Ladbrokes | Total |
| Dazzling Stone (A. O'Brien) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| King of Kings (A. O'Brien) | 12-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 |
| Central Park (A. O'Brien) | 12-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 |
| Harriet (A. O'Brien) | 12-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 |
| Chatter House (A. O'Brien) | 12-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 |
| Kear (A. O'Brien) | 12-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 |

Ebor Handicap (1m 5f 194yds)

| Horse (Trainer) | Corral | William Hill | Ladbrokes | Total |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| Medley Star (J. Gosden) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Passing Strangers (A. O'Brien) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Medley Star (J. Gosden) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Medley Star (J. Gosden) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Medley Star (J. Gosden) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Medley Star (J. Gosden) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Medley Star (J. Gosden) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Medley Star (J. Gosden) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |

| 1998 1,000 Guineas (1m) | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| Horse (Trainer) | Corral | William Hill | Ladbrokes | Total |
| Cape Verdi (J. Gosden) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Shedden (A. O'Brien) | 12-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 |
| Emblem (A. O'Brien) | 12-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 |
| Arkanian (A. O'Brien) | 12-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 |
| Arkanian (A. O'Brien) | 12-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 |
| Arkanian (A. O'Brien) | 12-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 |

BATH

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2.00 Kildoe Lad | 4.00 Tuscan Dawn |
| 2.30 Octavia Hill | 4.30 KAWAFIL (map) |
| 3.00 Oh Hebe (nb) | 5.00 Alarmist |
| 3.30 Sudest | |

GOING: Good. STALLS: Straight course - far side, round course - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None. LEAD-ON: Bath, 100 yards from the end of the race. Bath, 100 yards from the end of the race.

2.00 Kildoe Lad (2) (J. Gosden) 6-1. 2.30 Octavia Hill (2) (J. Gosden) 6-1. 3.00 Oh Hebe (nb) (2) (J. Gosden) 6-1. 3.30 Sudest (2) (J. Gosden) 6-1.

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Inspired Smith snatches win

Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Dublin

Robert Smith gained his first victory in the Kerrygold International Grand Prix yesterday, on the closing day of the Dublin Horse Show, having ridden with inspired determination after his defeat by 0.06sec in the same contest last year.

The Briton also took the award for the leading rider of the show. Smith's father, Harvey, had won this event on four occasions. "But then he's had more goes than me," Robert pointed out after his victory. On 17-year-old Senator, Tees Hanauer.

The last of four into the jump-off, Smith had watched Capt John Ledingham take the lead with a swift round on Kilbaha and he knew exactly what was needed when he defeated the Irishman by 0.15sec.

Third place went to Jan Tops of the Netherlands on Operette la Silla, with Michael Whitaker fourth after a single jump-off error on Virtual Village Absalom. Paul Duffy's course for the first round had proved a demanding test. "It was big and crunchy all the way round," Smith said, af-

ter Tees Hanauer's sixth grand prix win in just over a year.

Di Lampard on Abbervail Dream and Nick Skelton on Showtime made single errors in the first round, both dislodging a rail on the middle element of the treble to finish eighth and 10th respectively. Geoff Billington was clear on 11's Otto until the last of the 14 fences. He also collected 0.75 of a time fault for 20th place.

This was a great improvement on Billington's second Nations' Cup round on Friday, in which he had a refusal at the last part of the treble before being jumped clean out of the saddle at the last fence. Billington was relieved to have a good round in the grand prix, since the selectors will be choosing the squad for this month's European Championships today.

Smith, already assured of a place in the squad having earned it through the new team trials, will have an open mind as to whether he will ride Tees Hanauer or Orthon as he believed that either of them could do it, so we'll see which one is going best when we get there," he said.

Results, Digest, page 25

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| 12. HANAUER (IRE) (J. Gosden) 6-1. 13. OTTO (IRE) (J. Gosden) 6-1. 14. OTTO (IRE) (J. Gosden) 6-1. 15. OTTO (IRE) (J. Gosden) 6-1. 16. OTTO (IRE) (J. Gosden) 6-1. 17. OTTO (IRE) (J. Gosden) 6-1. 18. OTTO (IRE) (J. Gosden) 6-1. 19. OTTO (IRE) (J. Gosden) 6-1. 20. OTTO (IRE) (J. Gosden) 6-1. |
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Hill's late misfortune in Sunday's race in Budapest, relegating him to the silver medal position that appears to have become the British preserve, will not have weakened his bargaining position as he endeavours to secure a place in next season's championship contest.

He has had talks with McLaren-Mercedes and Ron Dennis' team must be even more interested in his services. Now, however, they are likely to be pressed for a decision they intended to put off until later in the season.

Hill gave produced a champion's performance here and will sense the opportunity to strike a deal. One of his advisors said: "We hope to have things sorted out in two to four weeks."

McLaren and Mercedes have stated they wish to give David Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen time to stake their claims for new contracts but the in-

Jordan have suggested they might be ready to graduate to the front line and although Hill rejected them at the end of last year, the association could be revived. If Hill is hired by McLaren at Coulthard's expense,

Ironically, Jordan-Peugeot were off the pace here, while Arrows-Yamaha were flying. However, Hill suspects this was his best chance of the year and is unlikely to regard them as genuine championship challengers for 1998.

"I would expect us to be at the top end of the next group after the super-teams next year. We have made steady progress over the last few races and hope to continue in that vein. I believe we can be competing for the championship in three years.

"We have had to address a lot of problems this season, but we

Walkinstown's involvement in other racing and business ventures has been cited as a weakness of his organisation, but he dismisses the criticism.

Michael Schumacher damaged his new chassis in the warm-up session and, using the spare, was unable to capitalise on his pole position. Rapidly blistering tyres compounded his problems.

Schumacher will be eager to generate his momentum at Spa, a circuit that has had as defining an influence on his career as the Hungaroring has had on Hill's.

Barnes said yesterday: "There is no sourness about this, although I have not actually left yet. I'm grateful and a bit surprised that they have allowed me to go on a free, they could have asked for cash but it is recognition of my service to the club."

"I haven't had any offers yet but the mobile phone is already ringing and it feels pretty hot at the moment. We shall just have to wait and see."

Manchester City have completed the free transfer of Australian international defender Jason Van Blerk from Millwall.

Setting a good example: Dermot Reeve, the Somerset coach and former Warwickshire captain, gives England's women's cricket team the benefit of his experience at Wellington College in Berkshire yesterday

After three days of intensely fought cricket neither side has managed to secure a definite advantage in the second Test here and the outcome will depend on

Ganguly compiled a chanceless 147, his third Test hundred. But India seemed to heading for a more meaningful lead than

Ganguly and Sachin Tendulkar carried their partnership to 150 before, out of the blue, Tendulkar drove a catch to short extra cover off Ravindra Pushpakumara. His dismissal at 139, three quarters of an hour before lunch, placed

Ganguly has had difficulty claiming a settled place in the team even after his dramatic entry into Test cricket in England last year when he scored hundreds at Lord's and Trent Bridge in his first two matches. When he entered with India stumbling 126 for 4, the trauma of his previous experiences added to the shock he endured in the run-gut first Test would have been etched in the back of his mind. It was a severe examination of his temperament and he passed with flying colours.

[illegible]

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 6 Kansas City 9; Texas 7 Cleveland 6; New York Yankees 9 Minnesota 6; Oakland 4 Milwaukee 3 (first game); Milwaukee 9 Oakland 5 (second game); Baltimore 4 Anaheim 3; Chicago White Sox 2 Seattle 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 4 Atlanta 2 (10 innings); San Francisco 3 Montreal 3 (12 innings); Houston 11 New York Mets 6; Cincinnati 4 Los Angeles 1; Philadelphia 3 St. Louis 2; San Diego 4 Chicago Cubs 3; Colorado 2 Pittsburgh 7.

Hampshire (R Darling) to Silver Band, Derbyshire (B Morley) 19-18; Southey (P Mussell) to Nafferton (H Morley) 15-14; Lowestoft Railway (J Turrell) to Reading (L Cutler) 21-14; Carlton Conway (S Officer) to Courtesothorpe (C Cheney) 24-22; Westminster Brackley (M Geary) to Broomfield, Middlesex (B Hurst) 23-18; Street (S Nicholls) to Stuart, Plymouth (A Pridham) 24-10; Oxford C and C 11 Moberg to North Fleet (C Clarke) 19-15; Bush Hill Park, Middlesex (C Derrington) to Durham City (J Powney) 21-18; Purton, Wiltshire (J Corrie) to Southampton Women (W Line) 19-15; Baldock (J Ward) to

ENGLISH WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Royal Leamington Spa) Four championship, preliminary rounds: Malvern (Victoria U Sorven) to Chessington (M Jones) 21-18; Blackwell, Dyrthshire (G Haines) to Penryn, Cornwall (S Drew) 21-17; Roundwood, Norfolk (A Baxter) to Norfolk Club (B Whitehead) 22-18; Burnham (M Proel) to City of York (R Sabor) 31-8; Peterborough and District (C Antori) to Shanklin (P Sherwood) 35-15. First rounds: Popes Head, Sussex (T Pitt) to Furnell, Somerset (M Hampton) 21-17; Walsley (K Howard) to Chislehurst (B Ridge) 19-18; Siston Burn (A Lennell) to Banbury Central (Lennell) 26-9; Bark Road, Hyndley 18-15.

Shophard Town (D Wooster) to Greenhill,
Dorset (B Carey) 22-21; Blackwell to Melvern
22-21; Burnham to Roundwood
27-9; Stratford Town to Peterborough and District
22-10. Second round: Seaton Burn to
Telford 24-20; Lincoln Railway to Park Road
24-11; 23-16; March Cone to Dalton 25-14;
Tockford to Whitnash 22-24; Cowley to
Widbury 18-15; Hamble to Cemetery Road
23-10; Southcombe 23-17; Field Place, Worthing to
Wheathon Chesham 19-13; Follstone to
Hampton 22-15; Milton Park to Maulden
23-15; Lowestoft Railway to Southey 33-12;
Westminster Brackley to Carlton County
25-17; Oxford C & C to Street 17-15; Goose
Mill Park to Purton 18-17; Baldock to Shep-
herd Town 26-16.

Warner-Hadley 37-1; Warrington 24-15; Marsh Con-
ventual (D. Fisher) at Bolton (C. Walker) 27-
10; Westminster (M. Tims) at Whitley Abbey (W.
Norton) 21-17; Rochford (U. Tann) at Kirkcaldie
(B. Stewart) 30-6; Cowes (P. Proud) at Mar-
sh (L. Thelwell) 27-18; Alderbury (R. Spetch)
at East Boldon (J. Watson) 25-8; Carmelite
Convent, Southport (L. Fotheringham) at Towhee-
ry (P. Mangrett) 24-20; Henlow (J. Smith) at
Northborne, Dorset (P. Cutler) 19-15; Wheel-
wright (A. Chetwinch) (X. Shaward) at Higham Fer-
ris (I. Blackwell) 20-19; Field Place, Worthing
(J. Davies) at Summerhill (J. Little) 27-12;
Holliston (M. Hayes) at Woodard Hall (D. Sear-
son) 22-17; Groundpond (X. Thomas) at Carlton
House (B. Aderton) 17-18; Maulden (S. Had-

Cricket
 Jacques Kallis was reappointed yesterday as the captain of the South African national team for the 1997-98 season. Kallis' tenure will run up to the conclusion of next year's five-test series against England. Western Province's Gary Kirsten will be his vice-captain throughout the season.

Equestrianism
AULIN HORSE SHOW: Kentucky Gold International Grand Prix 1. Sanelor Toss (Ruth Smith, G) clear, 45.12sec; 2. Ambra (Capt. J. Ledgerman, M) clear, 45.27;

5.50: 1. COLLEVILLE (R Cochrane)

[illegible]

ran. 2, 4. (L. Cumani). Total: £4.20;
1.80, £2.10, £1.10. DF: £14.30. CSP:
18.14. Tricost: £34.09.

THRASK

6.05: 1. SHONTANE (U Weaver) 9-2
v. 2. Mizuba 7-1; 3. Seconds Away
9-2. 17 ran. \$13.00. 21% (Johnston).
55.95. 25.95. 11.95. 22.70. 22.80.
3.20. DP: \$13.20. CSF: \$32.36. Trist:
\$202.02. Tror: \$31.10. Non
Winner: Napoleon Star. Winner bought
for 3,200 guineas.

8.35: 1. JEDI KNIGHT (L Charnock)
v. 2. Bamburging Boy 2-1 fav.
3. F. 8-1. 17 ran. \$13.00. 21% (F.
W. Easterby). Total: £55.50. 22.70.
18.00. DP: £5.40. CSF: £14.79.

**7.05: 1. PANAMA HOUSE (L
Charnock) 8-11 fav. 2. Ray of Sunshine**
1-1. 3. Short Romance 9-2. 6 ran.
17. (F. Easterby). Total: £1.60. £1.20.
1.70. DP: £2.20. CSF: £2.74.

■ Jack Berry hopes to mount three-pronged attack on the

yearly running of The Vagrants' Dash at Wolverhampton on Saturday evening. The contest with £30,000 in added money is restricted to two-year-olds purchased at the Sunnall Park Breeze Up Sale on 10 March and boasts prize money down to sixth place.

There were 21 entered for the six-furlong event at today's declaration stage with Grey Up Mate, Only For Gold and Rio from Berry's Moss in the stable. But there is a maximum field of 13 allowed for the race.

ALLER 200 INDY CAR CHAMPIONSHIP
 Miller-Ohio Course, Lexington, Ohio: 1 A Z
 (IL, Reynard-Honda) 1hr 41min
 682sec: 2 G Moore (Can, Reynard-Mer-
 cedes) + 4.8711sec; 3 R Rahal (US, Reynard-
 Ford) + 4.8711sec; 4 R Buesch (Eng, Reynard-Ford); 5 J Vasser
 3, Reynard-Honda). Selected: 21 D Fran-
 co (Sco, Reynard-Mercedes); 28 M Blum-
 berg (Eng, Reynard-Mercedes). Drivers'
 standings (after 13 of 17 events): 1 A

1.391; 27 A Berasategui (Sp) 1.382;
M Rosser (Swi) 1.341; 29 J Seaman (Ir)
1.275; 30 W Ferns (SA) 1.275. **Ob-**
jects: 155 M Petchey 286; 193 C Wilkin-
son 229; 195 A Richardson 228; 253 O
Steford 155; 298 M Lee 124; 302 J Del-
lino 121; 326 M Macdonald 106; 388 N West
448 L McKinn 62; 452 T Sparks 59.

TOUR LEADING PRIZE-MONEY WINNERS:
Samorins (US) \$1,848,578; 2 M Cheng (US)
143,920; 3 G Kuerten (Br) 111,958;
Musler (Aus) \$1,074,190; 5 A Correia (Sp)
537,422.

Then aggin, there's **RONALD**

OF STAR NAMES IN
LAWWRIGHTZOLABERGH
ELGIGGSCOLEBERGERI
LAPISTONESHERRIN
are na
DO B

ZIL & BOKS

KLINS DEL DUGA PATI

RONALDO
£50m hit-man
joins Inter

PIRELLA

PIRELLA GÖTTSCHE LOWE

FANTAGAL

DRUGS

**ZIDAN
KLUI**

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**TEST YOUR
EXCLUSIV
FOOTBALL
full deta**



Britain second best
Mike Rowbottom reviews the
World Championships, page 24

sport

Bubbling under
Damon Hill is ready for the
hard bargaining, page 25



Atherton's future is in his own hands

DEREK PRINGLE
Cricket Correspondent

It is that silly season again, when following another sporting defeat, the nation's favourite blood sport turns not from potting pheasants and flushing out fowls, but to rounding up scapegoats. Indeed it appears so popular and necessary over the years that it is a wonder that Damien Hirst has not put them all in a tank of formaldehyde and called it "Victims of an over-enthusiastic nation in the throes of mass self-denial".

greater the public appeasement. Which is why, after losing the Ashes, the call for the resignation of Michael Atherton, the England captain, has suddenly gathered pace again, despite yesterday's vote of confidence from the chairman of selectors, David Graveney.

Speaking in the aftermath of England's fifth successive defeat in an Ashes series, Graveney said: "I think he does a great job for the team and I would be happy for him to be captain this winter." If this does not quite square with the "Atherton offers to quit" rumours that surfaced midway through the Trent Bridge Test, it is still a ringing endorsement and one that suggests that if Atherton is to go he will have to fall rather than be pushed.

However, with both the Ashes - Atherton's number one quest as captain - and the series definitely gone he will spend the next few days, probably with his fishing rod for company, thinking long and hard about seeing his test career out in the ranks. Cricket has given him a lot and many will want him to stay on simply for the dearth of obvious successors. Yet he has given just as much to cricket - a record 45 tests as England captain for one - and should feel no obligation on that front. He has long been his own man and that should not change now.

If a cool head and not a warm heart are applied then Atherton should step down after The Oval, though he may choose to do so beforehand. Not because of his captaincy, which has always been considered and thorough, but for his own wellbeing, which is beginning to suffer. The grey hairs and worry lines may be absent, but his four-year stint as captain probably seems like 10.

As a game, cricket should only assume any kind of importance when it is being played. Before he became captain Atherton realised that. It was only afterwards, as Graham Gooch's successor, that the distinction became blurred. Leaders, even ones as natural as Atherton (and he is a natural, though not aggressively so), can only soak up so much before the pressure, expectation and blame - especially the blame - wear them down. Every man has a saturation point and

tough though his Lancastrian skin has been since he took over the job, it is not bulletproof. It is a curious vocation and nowhere is a sporting leader more exposed than on a cricket field: which makes captaining England the toughest, most thankless job going - unless you happen to win.

In a game riven with flaws and faults it is not patently unfair that one man should carry the can to such an extent? Cricket may be a team game, but most of the important decisions during play are taken by individual players, with the captain playing only the broadest of roles. Power inevitably changes a man, a fact lost on many of the job's previous incumbents, such as David Gower and Ian Both-

am, though not on Gooch. But while Atherton's batting blossomed with the captaincy, the perpetual underdog in him probably does not like the person he has had to become. Resolutely one of the lads, he abhorred telling a player he was dropped, which is why he recently asked for his vote over team selection to be withdrawn. Unflinching against the world's fastest bowlers, a reputation that earned him the moniker "Iron Mike", he remains a soft centre for those he plays with. That may explain why he was not always able to get the best out of them. People say he cannot inspire players unless by deed. But, as Steve Waugh pointed out when England met up for their motivational weekend, playing for your country should be motivation enough and it should come from within.

More cricket, page 25

Berg makes £5m move to United

Football
ALAN NIXON

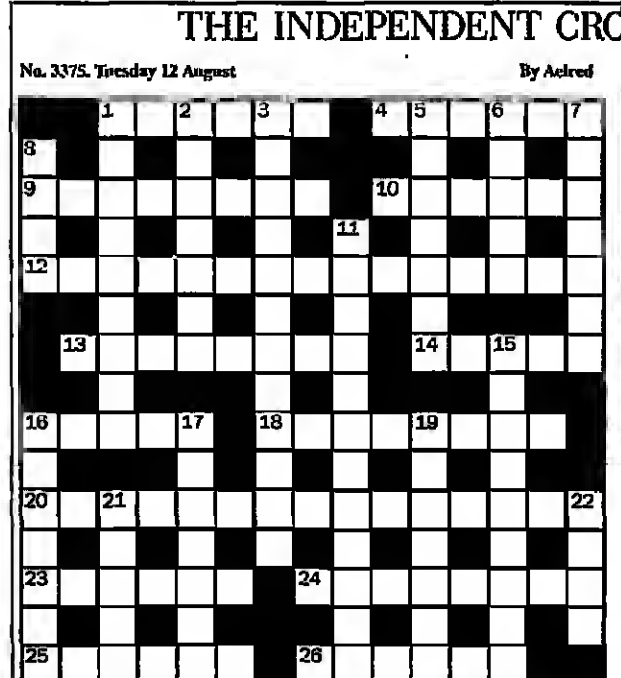
Henning Berg joined Manchester United in a £5m deal yesterday, taking the road from Blackburn Rovers that has been blocked in the past. Jack Walker, the Blackburn owner, had stopped a previous bid from United and was also behind the acrimonious negotiations that diverted Alan Shearer to Newcastle rather than Manchester when he was moved out for a record £15m. However, Roy Hodgson, the Rovers manager, feels he has enough cover to sell Berg and invest in other areas.

Berg, who has won 44 caps for Norway, lost his place in the Blackburn line-up after the arrivals of Stéphane Henchoz and Patrick Valery in the summer. However, there was disappointment for United yesterday with the news that Andy Cole's opening-day jinx has struck again. The striker has had surgery on an abscess in his calf and will probably not play until the end of the month. Everton are lining up the £1.5m signing of the Republic of Ireland international goalkeeper Alan Kelly from Sheffield United, who have

signed the former Manchester City keeper Andy Dible on a short-term deal. Manchester City are hoping to sign Crystal Palace's young winger Tony Scully for £1m this week. The Republic of Ireland Under-21 player has been allowed to leave Palace and City want to move quickly. City are willing to pay around £300,000 immediately with the rest of the money based on appearances. Ian Pearce will be the next player to leave Blackburn Rovers, with a £1.5m move to Crystal Palace lined up last night. The centre-back will decide on his future in the next 24 hours. Another possible arrival at Selhurst Park is Neil Embien, the Wolves midfielder, is about to become the most expensive player ever to leave Molineux. Embien, who was signed by Graham Taylor from Millwall for £750,000 in 1994, is having talks with Crystal Palace over personal terms prior to a £2m move.

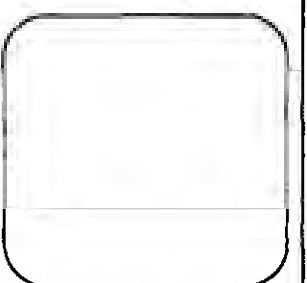


Red Devil's delight: Henning Berg takes in his new surroundings at Old Trafford yesterday after the defender signed for Manchester United in a £5m move from Blackburn Rovers. More football, page 26; photograph: Allsport



- ACROSS**
- Bar put in place all of a sudden (6)
 - Make allowance for bad group (6)
 - I'm willing to participate in a shout of bitterness (8)
 - Nerve cell registers particle, taking no time (6)
 - Such characters are comprehensible if unintelligent (7-8)
 - Shoots group of animals which might interest archaeologist (8)
 - Face heartless man, hot and sweaty (5)
 - Dislike having to suppress second expedition (5)
 - Band playing in foyer is

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
No. 3375, Tuesday 12 August
By Alfred
Monday's Solution



- Grass in Foreign Office gets male a release (7)
- Adventure includes credit to get clean (5)
- Attempt to keep woman in leather works (7)
- Enthusiastic hostility by Frenchman (4)
- We'd sound bells when exchanging these? (7,5)
- One very taken in by brave flirt (9)
- The result of grass growing round Pennsylvania is of little worth (7)
- Charm of French antiquities (7)
- Dirty woman in pub (7)
- Insect form found right in volcanic eruption (5)
- Number of spectators seeing wicket? (4)

Bath and Cardiff target Townsend

Rugby Union
ANDREW BALDOCK

Gregor Townsend, the Scotland and Lions stand-off, is the subject of transfer offers from two of the game's biggest clubs, Bath and Cardiff. Townsend has already discussed a possible six-figure move from Northampton to the Recreation Ground, while a meeting with Cardiff officials was planned for later yesterday. Given the registration deadline for this season's Heineken European Cup, both clubs will expect a decision by the end of this week.

Bath's assistant coach, Clive Woodward, said: "It would be absolutely brilliant to have a player of Gregor's calibre on board." Townsend played in both the Lions' memorable Test victories over the world champions, South Africa, during the summer but was then injured and allowed his prospective Bath team-mate Mike Catt a Test place in Johannesburg. The 24-year-old Scot has won more than 20 caps for his country, displaying rich qualities as both a stand-off and centre. He broke into the Scotland B team as a teenager, going on to make his full Scotland international debut against England as a replacement in 1993.

He was an automatic selection as the Lions' No. 10, but is known to have been unsettled at Northampton for some time. Cardiff are reported to be considering a £500,000 bid for Townsend, although the Bath chief executive, Tony Swift, said his club would be prepared to compete on those sizeable financial terms. "We are gaining more and more experience in the transfer market and we are not afraid to pay good money," he said. "But the bottom line is we want players who are totally committed to this club, players who have the necessary desire."

If Townsend opts to join Bath it would give the club an embarrassment of riches in midfield. The England international trio of Catt, Jeremy Guscott and Phil de Glanville are the men with whom Townsend would have to compete for a place. Woodward added: "It would be a great problem to have and I would rather be in that position than not. When a quality player comes into the equation and we think there is a need to strengthen our squad in that area, then we are bound to be interested. "At this stage it is not definite

that Gregor will definitely be leaving Northampton. We have just got to wait and see what happens." Bath have so far kept their pre-season signings to a minimum, adding just the Bristol and England hooker Mark Regan and the West Hartlepool flanker Russell Earnshaw to their squad. However, Swift confirmed that they have also been in touch with the Western Samoan wing Brian Lima, who is currently under contract with the reigning Super 12 champions, Auckland. Swift said Lima's transfer would involve a "small transfer fee". "Like Gregor, for Brian to play in the European Cup we would require a decision fairly quickly," he said.

This time the gloves are on.

The Semi-Final of the NatWest Trophy is no time for half-measures. Not when the winners get a trip to Lord's and the losers need a trip to Lourdes.

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